

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 91

MONDAY MARCH 31, 2008

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



POLL RESULTS

Would you support another round of austerity Fridays and unpaid holidays in government?

Yes-47

No-82

Sunday March 30, 2008

INSIDE

Fresh Protests

Fresh protests broke out in the Tibetan capital Lhasa as diplomats wrapped up a tightly controlled visit.

ASIA...Page 15



U.S. Airstrikes

A U.S. warplane strafed snipers in the southern city of Basra, killing at least 16 suspected militants.

WORLD...Page 16



Two Awards

It was the best of both worlds at the Kids Choice Awards for Miley Cyrus, who took home two trophies.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Ukulele master Shimabukuro dazzles Saipan. PAGE 2

Abramoff's former firm is indicted in Guam. PAGE 3

200 crashes a month in '07

DPS Traffic to tighten enforcement efforts

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Ten-year-old Stephan Niric Castro launches the talaya or the traditional Chamorro fishing net after learning the basic techniques from expert fisherman Rey Crisostomo during the 2008 Let Freedom Sing Festival at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Sunday. The two-day festival showcased live performances of ethnic songs and demonstrations of cultural practices and traditions.

Weekend festival celebrates cultural diversity

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The two-day cultural festival "Let Freedom Sing" over the weekend attracted hundreds of visitors that came to check out the impressive number of song performances and art demonstrations at the Multi-Purpose Center.

The festival—the first of its kind in the CNMI—saw an unending parade of people trooping to the Multi-Purpose Center to witness the weekend festival of fun and entertainment provided by different ethnic groups in the CNMI.

Mistresses of ceremonies 2008 Miss Marianas Teen Ariel St. Clair and 2008 Miss Marianas Teen first runner up Ashley Castro both introduced a wide number of cultural performances.

Some of the group performances were from the Mount Carmel Chamorro Class, United Filipino Organization, the Marianas Baptist Academy, Te Kanahau Nui, Northern Marianas College Cultural Club, Inatuas, Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ, Koblerville Elementary School, Super Mario Brothers, Northern Marianas Academy, and

See WEEKEND on Page 4

With car crashes—traffic and non-traffic—averaging more than 200 per month last year, the Department of Public Safety Traffic division will be ramping up its enforcement duties starting tomorrow, April 1.

Errant drivers beware as April Fools Day will kick off DPS Traffic's monthlong campaign to go back to the basics of keeping the Commonwealth's streets and highways safe with about 20 checkpoints planned, according to newly designated Traffic OIC Sgt. Tom Blas.



Blas

"After reviewing our monthly reports, we [found out that we] are averaging around 200 car crashes per month and

See 200 on Page 4

Cost to repair power plants: \$9.8M

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The cost of repairing the Saipan power plants has reached nearly \$10 million.

According to a report by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., a major contract of \$5.1 million has been awarded to the Guam-based DCM Group to rehabilitate seven of the eight generators at the main power plant in Lower Base. Local funds will be used to pay for the contract.



Reyes

An additional \$4.7 million worth of contracts has been awarded to several other firms involved in the power plant repair. Of this amount, \$2.87 million will be funded by federal grants and the remaining \$1.84 million will be funded by local money.

Due to engine problems, the Saipan power system is currently producing 45 megawatt, or only 39 percent of its built-in capacity.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr.

See COST on Page 4

i335 Bluetooth
weight 3.5 oz

SLIM & LITE

THINNEST & LIGHTEST PTT PHONE • VOICE DIALING • VOICE RECORDING
SIM CARD 600 CONTACTS • USB CONNECTOR • COLOR DISPLAY • GPS
JAVA APPS • SPEAKERPHONE • FREE HOLSTER

i290
weight 3.0 oz

Saipan - Guam -
Tinian/Rota Office:
888-8888
www.icconnectsaipan.com

Local



Hawaii's ukulele maestro Jake Shimabukuro, also known as the "Jimi Hendrix of the ukulele," wowed hundreds of Saipan residents with his outstanding performance during the Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands and Beautify CNMI's fundraising concert dubbed "A Magical Night of Ukulele with Jake Shimabukuro" at the Saipan World Resort Thursday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Ukulele master dazzles Saipan

By CLARISSA DAVID
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It is quite easy to dismiss the ukulele, a small four-stringed,

two-octave instrument with seemingly limited musical range.

Yet as ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro starts strumming those strings, the instrument comes to life, his talented fingers evoking music of extraordinary depth and range. Jake amplifies the ukulele's natural acoustic sound and combines it with his passion for music, producing melodic and intense arrangements.

Jake's astounding talent was in full display Thursday last week, when the Hawaiian-born and raised musician took center stage at Saipan World Resort's open theater for a show called "A Magical Night of Ukulele with Jake Shimabukuro."

As early as 6pm, hordes of people were already at the open theater to reserve the best seats, while groups of children clutching ukuleles of their own actually sat on the floor in front of the stage for a close-up view of their idol.

They were not disappointed. Celebrated for his lightning-fast fingers and a repertoire that transcends musical genres, Jake showcased his virtuosic dexterity and high performance level, leaving the audience mesmerized and yearning for more.

His repertoire was highlighted by his rendition of George Harrison's *While My Guitar Gently Weeps*. Jake infused his signature style intensity to the song's melancholic overture. Another hit that night was the flamenco-inspired *Let's Dance* which, to the cheers and delight of the audience and especially the kids, was performed in a progressively swift cadence.

Jimi Hendrix of Ukulele

Jake's ukulele skills has earned him the title of "Jimi Hendrix of Ukulele," who happens to be one of his heroes. Still, he remains self-effacing about it. "To just be mentioned in the same sentence as Hendrix is really the highest honor."

Jake's talent has made him one of the world's top ukulele players. He has toured with internationally acclaimed musicians, performed in prestigious venues, and has been invited to various music festivals.

This was not the first time for Jake to visit Saipan. He came

here first in September 2005 to perform during the 20th anniversary of HANMI, held at Saipan World Resort's Diamond Hall.

Jake gladly accepted HANMI's invitation to be on Saipan once again to perform in a show that would benefit both HANMI and Beautify CNMI.

"I believe in their cause. We should take care of our environment," said Jake, adding that, before the concert, he planted a flame tree with the people of Beautify CNMI. "I would like to visit that tree in the future," he said.

HANMI president Lynn Knight said they learned of Jake's popularity during his first visit here and wanted to accommodate more people for his second visit. "This time, we tried to get a bigger venue and bring the [ticket] prices down so people can afford it. We also saw that he had a very strong appeal with children so we tried to design it as a family event."

Youth appeal

Indeed, part of Jake's charm is his magnetic appeal with the youth. Before Thursday's concert started, Knight encouraged all the kids who are willing to and those who have brought their ukuleles with them to sit right in front of the stage.

Because of this positive influence on children, Debbie Winkfield, the General Music teacher at Saipan Community School, had asked HANMI if Jake could visit her students during his 2005 visit. The request was granted with pleasure. "It was on a Saturday. All my students came on a Saturday. It was quiet; there wasn't anyone but them. It was an amazing performance," she said.

Winkfield narrated how that one meeting with the ukulele genius changed the lives of many of her students. "From that [experience], these kids have grown up now. They've been playing amazing music. They have something to be passionate about. It improved their studies, their attitude, everything. It brought them to a higher level. We have him to thank for, for his contribution to the kids. You can see he doesn't leave until everyone gets an autograph or a picture. They look

See UKULELE on Page 4



7th ANNUAL CHARITY CLASSIC HANMI TOURNAMENT
HOTEL ASSOCIATION NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Saturday, April 5, 2008
Marianas Country Club
Show Time 6:30 a.m. / Shotgun Start 7:30 a.m.

Entry forms: Available at Marianas Country Club, Century Hotel and HANMI members.

Tournament Fee: \$99.00 / \$110 after April 1 inclusive of Green Fee, Prizes, Awards, Banquet
Maximum entries: 144 players
Additional banquet guests \$20 per person

<p>PRIZES CHAMPIONSHIP, SENIORS, A, B & C FLIGHTS</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>First Place:</td> <td>\$500.00 plus trophy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Second Place:</td> <td>\$300.00 plus trophy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Third Place:</td> <td>\$200.00 plus trophy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ladies Double Peoria : 1st</td> <td>\$500.00 plus trophy</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">2nd</td> <td>\$300.00 plus trophy</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">3rd</td> <td>\$200.00 plus trophy</td> </tr> </table>	First Place:	\$500.00 plus trophy	Second Place:	\$300.00 plus trophy	Third Place:	\$200.00 plus trophy	Ladies Double Peoria : 1st	\$500.00 plus trophy	2nd	\$300.00 plus trophy	3rd	\$200.00 plus trophy	<p>FLIGHT CATEGORIES</p> <p>Championship A - Flight B - Flight C - Flight Seniors (Age 50+) Ladies</p>
First Place:	\$500.00 plus trophy												
Second Place:	\$300.00 plus trophy												
Third Place:	\$200.00 plus trophy												
Ladies Double Peoria : 1st	\$500.00 plus trophy												
2nd	\$300.00 plus trophy												
3rd	\$200.00 plus trophy												

All those who do not win a flight, you'll be entered into double peoria for a chance to win a free trip

HOLE IN ONE PRIZES
Optional Play \$25.00
Nearest to the pin on all par 3's • Longest Drive #14

Door Raffle Prizes
Must be present to win

Aqua Resort Club
 Carlsmith Law Office
 Century Hotel
 Century Tours
 Chung Nam (C/O Mr. Jae)
 Coral Ocean Point Resort
 DFS
 D&Q
 Fiesta Resort SPA Saipan
 Flame Tree TV

Sponsored by:

Hafa Adai Beach Hotel
 HANMI
 Hyatt Regency Saipan
 Joeten Motors
 JSTA
 Kautz Glass
 Marianas Resort
 Pacific Eagle Ent.
 Pacific Islands Club
 Procter & Gamble

Sablan Topline
 Saipan Country Club
 Saipan Grand Hotel
 Saipan Sanki
 Saipan World Resort
 Takagi & Associates
 Tan Holdings
 360 Restaurant

HOLE IN ONE!
#6, #8, #12, #16

Sign up today at Marianas Country Club, Century Hotel or through HANMI members!

Winner of each flight gets 1 month free golf play courtesy of Marianas County Club!

Abramoff's former firm indicted

By MARTHA NEIL
ABA JOURNAL

Disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff and the firm for which he formerly worked have been indicted in Guam for allegedly making improper billings to the U.S. territory's superior court.

At issue in the case against Greenberg Traurig and other defendants is "a multitude of nonjudicial related activities the superior court paid for under the guise of a lobbyist contract," reports KUAM News. Prosecutors say the firm "charged the local judiciary for limousine services, travel for former senator Mark Charfauros, rounds of golf at various premier golf resorts around the world," the NBC affiliate writes on its website.

However, in a statement e-mailed to ABAJournal.com, the firm says it, too, "was a victim of Abramoff's actions," and will address the indictment—which came as a complete surprise to the firm—in a spirit of cooperation.

The case, which also includes charges against a former court administrator, involves \$324,000 paid by the court between 2001 and 2003 in dozens of \$9,000 increments that were small enough to fly under the judicial

branch administrative radar. They were allegedly made to another lobbyist, California attorney Howard Hills, and then forwarded to Abramoff and his then-law firm, Greenberg Traurig, reports the *Pacific Daily News*.

Hills is facing criminal charges made in a previous indictment in the case, and reportedly is a cooperating witness. He is not named in a Tuesday superseding indictment, which was provided by KUAM. Meanwhile, the indictment for the first time names Abramoff and the law firm as defendants, the *Pacific Daily News* explains.

An arraignment is scheduled April 16.

The Greenberg-Traurig statement, issued by Director of Communications Jill Perry, said:

"We cannot comment spe-

cifically about this indictment, as it comes as a complete surprise to us—we have never been contacted or subpoenaed by the Guam authorities. It appears to concern allegations regarding Jack Abramoff's conduct that occurred over five years ago.

"Jack Abramoff's plea agreement with federal authorities acknowledged that along with his clients, Greenberg Traurig was a victim of Abramoff's actions, and it exposed additional conduct unknown to us when he was asked to leave our firm in February 2004.

"We have cooperated with all law enforcement agencies and congressional investigations and made sure that any former clients were fairly treated. We will address this matter in the same spirit."

H&R Block Office New Location

H&R BLOCK®

Tax Services

Beach Road, South Garapan
PMB 674 Box 10003 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 235-4728 • Fax: (670) 235-6726

Office Hours (Feb. 20th to Apr. 15th)
9:00am to 7:30pm • Monday through Saturday
(Other times by appointment)

H&R BLOCK

Best Fishing

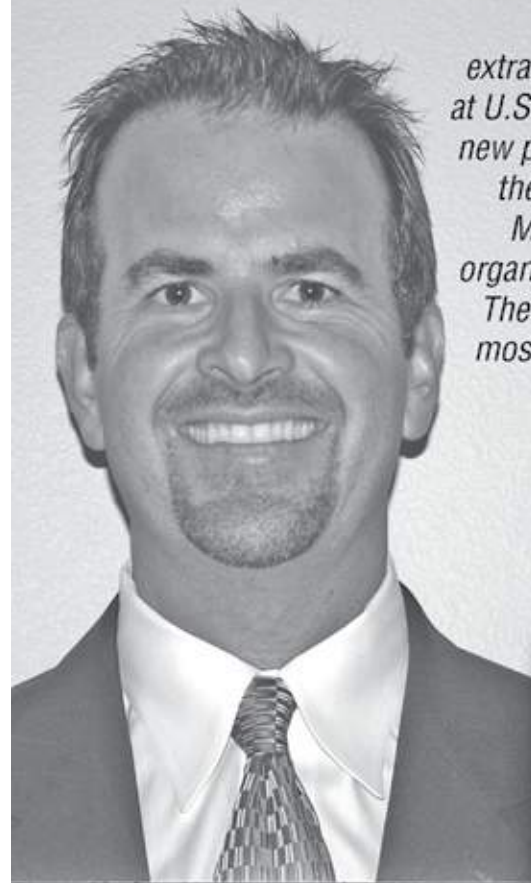
Saipan Computer

Marianas Eye Institute

← To Duty Free Shop
Beach Road, South Garapan
To San Jose →

13th Fishermen Monument

"The office set up is a higher quality than most ophthalmologist offices here in the U.S."



Dr. David Khorram, MD
America's Top Ophthalmologists

Dr. Mark Robertson, OD
Magna Cum Laude

Dr. Khorram uses the latest cataract extraction techniques that are being used at U.S. mainland facilities. He has a brand new phaco machine which is the latest on the market. I was very impressed with Marianas Eye Institute's office, overall organization, and cataract surgery facility. The office set up is a higher quality than most ophthalmologist offices here in the U.S. I was very impressed with the friendly and extremely helpful staff.

John Garland
Advanced Medical Optics
Regional Technician-California



Marianas Eye Institute

"Where Technology Meets Talent"

235-9090

Beach Road, Garapan
www.MarianasEye.com

One-Hour Glasses • Contacts • Medical Eye Care
Advance Surgery & Laser • Botox

We accept: Aetna, Staywell, Moylan's, TakeCare, Medicaid, Calvos', Medicare, TriCare and more.



Roasts, Reds & Rendezvous at the Hyatt with Kendall Jackson Wines and Certified Angus Beef

Please join us for a special cocktail evening featuring an array of culinary masterpieces made from the most sought after beef and paired with finest red wines.

Time	6:30pm - 9:30pm
Date	Thursday, April 3rd, 2008
Venue	Giovanni's Restaurant, Hyatt Regency Saipan
Dress code	Island formal

\$20.00 for Club at the Hyatt members
\$25.00 for non-members

RSVP
For reservations, please call 234-1234 extension 5870 or 26



GIOVANNI'S

Guam buildup shifts from elation to worries—Laney

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Guam is singing a different tune two years after the announcement that 8,000 U.S. Marines and about 9,000 of their dependents will relocate to the U.S. territory from Okinawa.

First Hawaiian Bank economics consultant Dr. Leroy Laney said that the CNMI neighbor's initial celebratory feeling about the impending \$15-billion military buildup in Guam has died down since the April 2006 announcement. In its place are questions ranging from "who would foot the bill" to "would it all be completed on time."

"The biggest change I've noticed is when I was here in August 2006, the military buildup has just been previously announced in April, there was a great sense of elation and euphoria... [people saying] 'God we're getting all this money and everything is going to be great and everybody that lives and works and makes a living is going to get their slice of it.'

"Coming back here now in early

2008, the biggest change I've noticed is that the rhetoric and the discussion has changed more toward, 'How much is this going to cost and who's going to pay for it?' and 'Can we get it done in the timeframe that the military has set out?'" said Laney, who served as guest speaker of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting held last Friday at Saipan Grand Hotel.

Laney, who is also a professor of Economic and Finance at the Hawaii Pacific University, added that much of the apprehension in the military buildup revolves around the 2010-2014 timeframe expected for the military buildup to be completed.

He said the Joint Guam Planning Office has published a timeline but what he is concerned about is that the projects are somewhat timed abruptly to start in 2010 and also end abruptly in 2014.

"It seems to me that's somewhat optimistic. Knowing how these things go it's not likely that it's going to have that trajectory. First of all, it's not that far off; 2010 is just around the corner, as a mat-

ter of fact, and people that I talked to in the construction industry over there are kind of the opinion that, 'well if we're really going to get started in 2010 then this, this, and this should've been happening right now.' It's not, so it's not going to happen that quickly."

The other thing that worries Laney is that the window from 2010 to 2014 is a rather brief one to cram all of that planned military construction in Guam.

He, however, admits that the military buildup is a boon to the U.S. territory.

"Regardless of what trajectory it is, if it takes in a longer timeframe, it's going to be a big boost to the Guam economy and I would think the CNMI economy

would be looking at ways that you can get some of that also."

And the benefits of the Guam military buildup to the Commonwealth does not stop there.

"If job growth here is not that great, the possibility of jobs over there might be greater. I heard some talk about using Saipan as a staging area for some of the construction that is going on," he said.

Guam and CNMI are also expected to get a bigger boost once the U.S. Navy decides to expand the port in the U.S. territory to allow its mighty aircraft carriers to dock there.

"They're talking about an aircraft carrier visiting the harbor. They're ex-

panding the harbor so an aircraft carrier can get in there. I heard from the lieutenant governor (Mike Cruz) over there that four or five business visits a year from an aircraft carrier is almost like home-coming there. When all the sailors hit the town, it's like a small town pulling up to the dock. That would be a big boost. I would think they would also come over here (CNMI)," said Laney.

Aside from the CNMI and Guam, Laney also talked about the U.S. economy and why he believes it is in recession. He also said Hawaii's economic growth is undoubtedly decelerating but that it continues to be in a better position than the overall U.S. economy.

Hocog: Strip lawmakers of immunity privilege

Lawmakers will be open to lawsuit for statements they make in the Legislature if a proposed constitutional amendment becomes law.

Rep. Victor Hocog introduced last week a House legislative initiative that would scrap the immunity that protects lawmakers from being sued for their written or oral statements during session.

Hocog, in his initiative, called for the removal of legislative immunity amid its perceived abuse by certain lawmakers who have used their immunity to commit slander.

"It is widely held that this immunity is central to the operation of a legislature, for full and frank discussions of issues germane to the public welfare are necessary if policies are to be properly studied," the initiative states.

"It is, however, also assumed that members of the Legislature will act responsibly and with dignity, and will not hide behind the immunity granted to insult constituents. The people of the Commonwealth should not have to wonder which person will be slandered next when the Legislature meets in session," it adds. (*Agnes E. Donato*)

UKULELE

From Page 2

up to him as a role model. [It's] really wonderful. We are so happy to put our endorsement to someone who's doing good for the kids. And we are just so happy that they brought him back."

Inspiring

Jodel Fernandez, an eighth grade student at SCS, was one of the students fortunate enough to watch Jake perform during his visit at SCS in 2005. She said that watching Jake perform is very inspiring. "I kind of like the uke more than I did before. I practice more and now I play better with the uke," said Fernandez.

She added that Jake's rendition of George Harrison's *While My Guitar Gently Weeps* has always been her favorite. Incidentally, the video of his performance of the song in New York's Central Park circulated in the Internet and has played a significant part



Jake Shimabukuro combines the elements of jazz, rock, folk, blues and classical music in an extraordinary performance during the Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands and Beautify CNMI's fundraising concert dubbed "A Magical Night of Ukulele with Jake Shimabukuro" at the Saipan World Resort Thursday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

in his career.

For 11-year old Fred Cruz, it was his first time to see his idol perform live. Cruz has been playing the ukulele for two years now. He particularly loved Jake's *Let's Dance* because "it was really fast."

During one of his spiels, Jake recognized Winkfield and all the children whom he had the privilege of meeting during his first visit to Saipan.

When asked how he feels about his positive impact on children, Jake said he is greatly honored. "They actually inspire me, too. I see their passion and enthusiasm, and that encourages me to keep playing, to keep doing what I do."

Jake's latest album, "My Life," features cover tunes, which includes the Beatles' *In My Life*, Sarah McLachlan's *Ice Cream*, and Led Zeppelin's *Going to California*.

He has no plans of resting on his laurels, though. Jake sees himself as a sponge that can still absorb more. "I just want to keep playing, keep learning. I'm still a student of music, and I will be until I can't play anymore."

WEEKEND

From Page 1

the Saipan Community School.

Solo performances included Sakura-kō Halstead, Erica Tubero, Shin Kimura, Anna Rose Deleon Guerrero, Nicole Lopez, and Leilani Cepeda.

As cultural song and dance presentations were being performed inside the Multi-Purpose Center,

live cultural demonstrations were also keeping the guests entertained outside the premises.

Art demonstrations included banana art painting, Samoan print board on fabric, coconut oil making, Micronesian traditional skirt weaving, sand art painting, coconut art painting, tanga painting, coconut art painting, tanga jewelry, coconut weaving, origami art, talaya throwing, Carolinian beadwork making, Tahitian ti-leaf hipsters, Carolinian coconut head crowns,

coconut candy, Japanese soba noodle making, and Kendo demonstrations.

The cultural demonstrations were intended to expand people's understanding of other people's origins and cultural heritage.

The Let Freedom Song Festival was sponsored by the NMI Council for the Humanities as part of a series of projects funded by the We the People Grant titled "From Many, One: Exploring Democracy in a Multicultural Com-

monwealth."

Other upcoming Council projects include "Democracy Considered," which is a series of community discussions in which community members are afforded an opportunity to examine different issues relating to democracy in the Commonwealth.

Another activity is the "Back to Basics Program," which will feature public lectures given by the recognized local and international experts focusing

on the basics of democracy.

With funding from the National Endowment Fund for the Arts, the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture played a key role in the organization of the Let Freedom Sing Festival as it provides the financial and logistical support needed for the event.

NMICH was awarded the We the People Grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the projects was organized by Taro Leaf, Inc.

COST

From Page 1

said the administration is optimistic that power outages will be minimized once DCM completes is project in

June 2008.

"The rehabilitation project will bring the engines to a greater level of efficiency. We also expect this to result in substantial savings—about \$2 million a month—in fuel and lubrication costs," Reyes said.

DCM got the six-month contract in December 2007. The team arrived at the power plant on Feb. 7, 2008 and after completing the assessment, started the rehabilitation program on Feb. 14. DCM's job includes the complete engines, the alternator and auxiliaries at

Power Plant 1.

After DCM, the company that received the next largest bulk of CUC contracts is Mitsubishi Corp. The firm has been awarded a total of \$2.28 million in contracts.

Other contractors and vendors in-

involved in the refurbishment of the Saipan power plants are CBM Tech. Pty. Ltd. (\$375,700), SAI Traders (\$431,300), South Pacific Eng. Pty. Ltd. (\$25,440), IMSE BUBA (\$3,534), and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. (\$21,910).

200

From Page 1

these are for both traffic and non-traffic related crashes. Failure to yield, running a red light, and speeding have all been identified as causes of crashes," said Blas.

He hopes that increased enforcement and more checkpoint activity would help curb the trend.

Unofficial DPS records show a total of 2,560 car crashes in 2007. The figure translates to around 213 car

crashes per month.

Going by month, January 2007—or right after the holidays—tallied the most car crashes at 289, while September showed the least car crashes at 167.

February (213), March (248), April (201), May (185), June (225), July (185), August (206), October (234), November (203), and December (204) round out the unofficial car crash statistics for 2007.

DPS Traffic did not provide any comparative data for car crashes compiled in 2006. The report also did not

specify fatal car crashes.

Blas explained DPS Traffic's more proactive approach, saying "we are doing this because of the statistics revealing that we've had an increase in car crashes but at the same time we are mandated under the programs we're running to comply and meet with these requirements."

The interim DPS Traffic chief also said that the appointment of Clyde Norita as new DPS Commissioner prompted a campaign inside the department to "return to basics," which includes a heightened

enforcement of traffic laws and regulations in the CNMI.

It also helps, according to Blas, that his unit has additional manpower and additional equipment—more motorcycles on the streets for patrol—"so that in turn gives us more opportunity to go out there and perform these functions."

Blas said that DPS Traffic was unable to conduct more checkpoints the past few months due to the lack of manpower.

Operating a checkpoint is not as easy as it sounds, he said. "Sixteen people are needed to run a success-

ful checkpoint from going to the flagman down to the person greeting the motorist and the logistics personnel, [and] people surveying the scene for civil violations."

Checkpoints that DPS Traffic plans to conduct starting next month include eight DUI (driving under the influence) enforcement, six Mandatory Liability Auto Insurance enforcement, and six OPCR/CPS checkpoints.

In addition, DPS Traffic will also conduct two MCSAP Selective Traffic Enforcement checkpoints in the course of the month.

Groups, individuals honored for environment work

By **CLARISSA DAVID**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Four groups were accorded the highest honor by Beautify CNMI! Thursday night last week with the announcement of the winners of its annual awards program, recognizing those who made the biggest contribution to the cause of the environment the previous year.

The awarding ceremony was in line with the second-year anniversary of the non-profit organization and took place during the Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands and Beautify CNMI's fundraising show "A Magical Night of Ukulele with Jake Shimabukuro" at the Saipan World Resort.

The CNMI Steward Award, considered the highest award that night, was presented to the Friends of the Mariana Is-

lands who help pick up trash on a weekly basis; the Marianas Dive for its monthly underwater cleanups; the Paseo Marianas Promoters for restoring the Paseo de Marianas as a family-friendly area; and to Max Aguon and the Sugar Dock Boys for taking care of Sugar Dock.

Beautify CNMI's Angelo Villagomez said that the CNMI Steward Award is given to individuals or groups who are considered the "backbone of Beautify CNMI." These are the people who mostly go out on a weekly basis to take care of the environment.

Four individuals and a company, meanwhile, were recognized with the CNMI Champion Award, which is bestowed to individuals or groups "you read about in the newspaper talking about environment issues. They pick an issue, and they are out

there in the public promoting it. It doesn't necessarily have to be in one of the committees of Beautify CNMI," Villagomez said.

This year's Champion award winners are Nava Khorram, Maritess Castillo of Friends of the Mariana Islands, Katie Busenkell of PAWS, Mike Tripp of Marianas Dive, and Aqua Resort Club.

More than 20 groups and individuals received the CNMI Spirit Award. The award was given to "the different people on the islands who are doing things to make this a better place to live" and not necessarily for or under the auspices of Beautify CNMI.

Recipients of the award include American Red Cross, Tan Holdings Corp., Marian Aldan Pierce, Harry Blalock, PTI, Marianas Visitors Authority, Ruth Tighe, Absalon Waki, Jr., Rose Callier, Saipan Grand Hotel, Tanapag Boy Scouts, Brad

Doerr, Ron and Nancy Kramis, CNMI Power, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Marianas Resource Conservation & Development Council, PAWS, Isa CNMI, Mariana Island Nature Alliance, Pala Potu, Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz, Bree Reynolds, Captain Carl Brachear, CNMI Lion's Club, Kim Vaillancourt, Lihla Noori, Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, DEQ Cleanup Brigade, DLNR Forestry, Taotao Tano, Bank of Guam, and Hyatt Regency Saipan.

According to Villagomez, the winners were chosen by the different committees of the organization from a pool of nominations they received from the public.

Villagomez said that they decided to have the awarding coincide with the benefit show as it was an opportunity for people to realize how big the coalition of Beautify CNMI is.

"All the support comes from the community, and we're just so blessed to have that kind of support, and Saipan is a lucky island," he added.

Villagomez was also pleased about the number of people who came to watch the ukulele vir-

tuoso perform. "[It was a] really good turnout," he said.

Proceeds from the show will

help fund Beautify CNMI's and HANMI's various programs and activities.

OPA seeks \$2.57M budget in 2009

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor wants a budget of \$2.57 million for fiscal year 2009.

This represents a 14-percent cut from OPA's FY2008 budget request, and 42 percent more than the office may actually get this year.

The budget proposal will allow OPA to hire eight additional personnel. This will bring to 30 the number of people employed by the agency.

Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan said it is critical that the staff positions be filled. Since 2005, OPA has lost 65 percent of its audit staff and 75 percent of its investigative staff. Another manager is expected to quit OPA in May 2008, leaving the agency with only one manager to coordinate all of its audit responsibilities.

"I have held back on filling these critical positions for fiscal austerity reasons. However, the vacancies negatively impact our ability to perform the full services that OPA is mandated to provide," Sablan said.

OPA plans to hire two managers, promote the current audit staff to senior level positions and hire new auditors, and hire a legal prosecutor and an investigator to its joint public corruption task force with the Office of the Attorney General.

Sablan also reiterated OPA's proposal to coordinate the single audits of CNMI agencies for which single audits are required. OPA has floated this proposal as far back as 2004.

"If OPA negotiates, supervises, and coordinates these audits, the CNMI government will obtain cost savings as well as improved and consistent audits. The agencies that are included in this budget will no longer have to bear this expense," he said.

Off-island travel costs will take a cut under OPA's budget proposal. OPA's current year

budget drastically cut travel by 34 percent the prior fiscal year. The FY2009 budget further cuts travel down to \$51,700—or by 24 percent from the

FY2008 budget.

According to Sablan, OPA will continue to utilize federal funding for travel whenever possible.

HARDT EYE CLINIC

Serving you for over 15 years



DAVID HARDT, O.D. | DON HARDT, O.D.

SERVICES OFFERED:

- New patients welcome • Thorough examinations for eye disease
- Treatment for infections and injuries • Glaucoma treatment • Diabetic eye care
- Infant/children eye exams • We love kids
- Staff are fluent in Chamorro, Carolinian, Chinese, Japanese and Tagalog.

We are open for your convenience 6 days a week.

Walk-ins are Welcome!

We accept most insurance plans including: Aetna, Medicaid, Medicare, Calvo's, Netcare, TakeCare, Tricare Overseas, and Blue Cross (Federal Govt. employees)

We accept most credit cards including Visa, MasterCard and American Express

Please call us now at 235-2030

We are located at Beach Road next to Megabyte.

INTRODUCING

ICONNECT'S

25-5 MABUHAY

TALK & TEXT!

TALK & TEXT to the Philippines!
SMART, GLOBE & SUN CELLULAR

25¢ PER MINUTE FOR CALLS
5¢ PER TEXT MESSAGE

TEXT & TAWAG NA!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON TEXTING:
One time setup procedures for MESSAGE CENTER NUMBER:

1. From the Main Screen press Mesg(s) or go to Messages folder.
2. Go to Text Outbox and press OK or Select (for i205 and i215).
3. Press Menu button.
4. Go to Text Msg Setup and press OK or Select.
5. Go to Srvc Cntr No: and press OK or Change.
6. Enter 16718886809 and press OK.
7. Press DONE or Back and wait for setup to be saved.
8. Press Back 2X or press the end call button to return to Main Screen.

**For i930 phones, please call our Customer Service.*

FREE incoming text messages. Conditions apply.

Saipan - Guam Office: 888-8888 | www.iconnectsaipan.com

i335
THINNEST
PTT PHONE

CONNECT

'No permanent residency language in S.2739'

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president James T. Arenovski said the new omnibus bill—S.2739—currently pending at the U.S. Senate does not have a provision guaranteeing permanent residency to long-term guest workers in the Commonwealth.

In the "From the President" section of the Chamber newsletter, the president of Delta Management Corp. told members, "I thought it important to clarify that there is NO permanent residency language in the new S.2483 (the precursor of S.2739). It just doesn't exist. Whether for or against, there seems to be 100 percent agreement that this bill is intended to

and will reduce the guest worker numbers in the NMI."

The Chamber president added that he has also written to Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee communications director Bill Wicker inviting him to clear up the committee's "misrepresentations" directly with Chamber so that its members can get the facts on S.2739 straightened out.

Arenovski's concerns stem from a comment made by Wicker that appeared in the March 19, 2008, issue of the *Saipan Tribune* that read: "We remain concerned that opponents of federalization continue to deliberately misinterpret and misinform the community about this legislation, to make it appear insensitive to CNMI concerns."

In the same newsletter, Arenovski reported to Chamber members that he recently had a meeting with Philippine Consul General Wilfredo DLG. Maximo and he was able to pass on to him what he learned from his trips in Washington, D.C., about the impending federalization of the CNMI and what was in store for Filipino nonresident workers in the islands.

"Much to his and his staff's credit, the Chamber has been asked to join a forum to provide some information and then answer questions for Filipino overseas workers employed by the Chamber businesses. If this works well we will provide the forum to other organizations," he said.

Arenovski added that the in-

tent of the forums is to focus on the reality of the mandated reduction in guest workers "and what real effects the proposed legislation may have on businesses."

He added, "I have no intention to engage in arguments over people's interpretations, but will present to my best ability what the Chamber has found out. I will leave residency and other issues not addressed in the bill for others."

S.2739—or the "Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008"—adopted entirely the provisions of H.R. 3079, which was passed by the House of Representatives on Dec. 11, 2007. It was crafted by Rep. Donna Christensen of U.S. Virgin Islands.

Currently, all U.S. possessions except the CNMI have a delegate in Congress.

The provision, however, does not include the controversial measure granting improved status to long-term guest workers in the CNMI. Instead, the provision pertaining to CNMI immigration in the new omnibus bill requires the U.S. administration to submit to Congress within two years after S.2739's enactment a report with recommendations on how to grant the guest workers a more permanent status.

Bond eyed to settle govt debt with Fund

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two separate proposals have been introduced in the House of Representatives to allow the CNMI government to borrow money to pay its multimillion-dollar debt to the NMI Retirement Fund.

One version proposed by Rep. Heinz Hofschneider will permit the issuance of a \$200-million pension obligation bond. Another proposal sponsored by Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero does not set a dollar amount, saying only that the bond must not exceed what the government owes the pension program.

According to the Fund, as of Sept. 30, 2007, employer contributions receivable from the CNMI government exceed \$132 million, excluding penalties and interest.

Hofschneider said the liabilities are now approximately \$193 million.

In addition to allowing for the bond flotation, Hofschneider's

initiative proposes to prohibit the Legislature from adding on benefits until the pension program is fully funded.

Moreover, the initiative will mandate the government to reduce personnel costs until the budget allocation for payroll is down to 60 percent or less of the general revenues.

Currently, personnel costs comprise about 75-80 percent of the government's total budget.

"We need to shift the allocation of resources to providing services to the public, rather than allowing the government to go on unrestricting hiring," Hofschneider said.

Legislative initiatives have to be passed by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members of each house present and voting. The governor cannot veto legislative initiatives, which are proposals to amend the Constitution.

Once passed by the Legislature, initiatives will be subject to voter ratification.

73 complete reading courses

Seventy-three participants at 10 sites in the CNMI completed the Motherhead/Fatheread® Adult Course and a Teacheread® course this month.

The Department of Corrections, Northern Marianas College School of Education, Kagman Elementary School, Oleai Elementary School, San Antonio Elementary School, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School and Songsong Head Start Center in Rota each hosted class sessions for their communities for the last two months.

The participants attended eight sessions for eight weeks with a certified trainer facilitating the course. The certified trainers who facilitated site sessions were Bryan Manabat, Viola DLGuerrero, Angelina Yobech, Maribel Loste, Celina Romolor-Route, Mary Jane Limes, Lois Dewitt, Fred Camacho and Mary Lynn Ogo.

The following is the upcoming class schedules to be hosted at the various Head Start Centers on Saipan

Spring 2008 Motherhead/Fatheread® Class Schedules

Cycle	Day	Time	Date Begins	Venue
1	Monday	6 pm	Mar. 31	Tanapag HS Center
2	Monday	6 pm	Mar. 31	Dandan HS Center
3	Tuesday	6 pm	Apr. 1	Chalan Kanoa HS Center
4	Tuesday	6 pm	Apr. 1	Kagman HS Center
5	Wednesday	6 pm	Apr. 2	San Antonio HS Center
6	Thursday	6 pm	Apr. 3	Oleai HS Center
7	Thursday	6 pm	Apr. 3	Garapan HS Center

Motherhead/Fatheread® is a free literacy program available in the CNMI for any group or individual that is interested in learning about reading to/with children and how to use stories as motivators for success. For more information, contact the CNMI Motherhead® coordinator at 235-7319 or E-mail cnmimotherhead@gmail.com. (PR)

The Department of Public Health's Community Guidance Center (CGC), and partners, is pleased to announce the...

4th Annual KICK BUTTS DAY (KBD)

march and rally, on April 2, 2008, from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.



- The event features a march from the Garapan Fishing Base to the Carolinian Affairs Office.
- We encourage all schools to bring their school banner as a show of school spirit and representation.
- Schools will compete in a 10 minutes dance-off competition and most (cigarette) butts collected for a 10-year Perpetual Plaque.
- Light refreshments, educational exhibitors, entertainment, and giveaways



For more information please contact the Community Guidance Center at 323-6584, 85, 86, 95.



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING**

Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995



**NOTICE OF HEARINGS
PENDING DENIAL APPEALS**

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Please bring any documentation necessary to resolve the issues that led to the denial of your permit application. If you fail to appear or fail to bring required documentation, the appeal may be dismissed and an administrative order may be entered against you. Any employee who intends to request permission to transfer to a new employer must appear at the hearing to make that request; failure to appear may result in immediate denial of transfer relief.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
DC 08-053	Fernandez, Hergin P.	4D Corporation	Apr. 03, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-061	Rocil, Evelyn N.	Abba Corporation	Apr. 03, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-042	Pantola, Lorenzo N.	Ablog, Nestor R.	Apr. 03, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-041	Tapang, Restituto C.	Ablog, Nestor R.	Apr. 03, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-008	Valiente, Ma Eden T.	Active Corporation	Apr. 03, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-023	Anareta, Alfredo P.	Agulto, Frankie	Apr. 03, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-035	Callanga, Melanie B.	Anulao, Arthur S.	Apr. 03, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-098	Ganisi, Sonny L.	Aranda, Roma Diaz	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-117	Samia, Angelito S.	Arriola, Luzviminda F.	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-009	He, Jianchu	Asia Pacific United Dev. Inc.	Apr. 03, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-099	Gamboa, Roberto T.	Auto Marine Inc.	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-022	Raymundo, Pinky A.	Azucenas, Renato G.	Apr. 03, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-014	Jucutan, Eduardo D.	Baitlon, Noel M.	Apr. 03, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-015	Lucero, Arlo G.	Bisnes Mami Inc.	Apr. 03, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-086	Tajan, Romeo S.	Brundidge Jr., Willie L.	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-027	Asakit, Chai	Cabrera, Joaquin S.	Apr. 03, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-029	San Gabriel, Gener R.	Cabrera, Virginia	Apr. 03, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-172	Blanco, Eden A.	Calma Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-173	Yumul, Grace Mary M.	Calma Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-037	Geneblazo, Danilo S.	Camacho, Anita A.	Apr. 03, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-079	Chang, Zhenghua	Castro, Xiao Mei Feng	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-080	Chi, Changfu	Castro, Xiao Mei Feng	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-013	Zhu, Juan	Castro, Xiao Mei Feng	Apr. 03, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-085	Huang, Lian Jin	Chunshan Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-068	Cruz, Joel A.	Crystal Water Corp.	Apr. 03, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-155	Bautista, Dennis D.	Cui & J Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-016	Ebuen, Bernie E.	D L Corporation	Apr. 03, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-063	Ahmed, Shuhel	Dajets Island Charcoal	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-065	Arangorin, Manolo A.	Double J Corporation	Apr. 03, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-064	Ragadi, Gemma L.	Double J Corporation	Apr. 03, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-062	Soriano, Richard G.	Double J Corporation	Apr. 03, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-040	Jiang, Huishu	Future World Inc.	Apr. 03, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-119	Laison, Miguel L.	Gems Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-012	Napitan, Cesar B.	Golden Key Saipan Inc.	Apr. 03, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-017	Osorio, Jose G.	Graphics Inc.	Apr. 03, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-090	Livado, Abner A.	Inter Pacific Resort Corp.	Apr. 03, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-062	Zong, Xiquan	J-One Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-018	Dantic, Ronald C.	JOS Corporation	Apr. 03, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-140	Quan, Zhenyu	JXYZ Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-197	Kang, Hyun Joung	Kap, Soon Choi	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
DC 08-038	Pak, Yong Jong	L And Y Corp.	Apr. 03, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-096	Li, Huiqin	L Xin Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-007	Rivera, Agnes M.	Ladrangan, Cesar	Apr. 03, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-192	Bulaon, Desiree N.	LHD Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-193	Oliver, Jennylyn G.	LHD Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-194	Rivera, Jerramie G.	LHD Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-114	Zheng, Chunmin	Limes, Rebecca S.	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-021	Ejorçadas, Clarito B.	Micronesia Woodcraft Ent., Inc.	Apr. 03, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-005	Salonoy, Mamerto M.	Milne & Reyes Enterprises	Apr. 03, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-028	Remigio, Alvin A.	New Shintani Corporation	Apr. 03, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-127	Agustin, Gerardo Dela Cruz	P.H.S. Corporation	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-069	Cong, Xiaoxia	Pacific Horizon, Ltd.	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-011	He, Juhua	Pacific Horizon, Ltd.	Apr. 03, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-087	Villaflores, Lawrence R.	Pacific Blue Corporation	Apr. 03, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-108	Rejano, Isagani	Pacific Drilling Ltd.	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-147	Teodoro, Anacleto P.	Palacios, Lolita N.	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-146	Teodoro, Maximo Jr. P.	Palacios, Lolita N.	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-101	Alulod, Menecio B.	Par Enterprises Inc.	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-139	Montclaro, Bernarda S.	Pelisamen, Maria E.	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-030	Bucad, Henry G.	Pfaffin, Ronald/Josephine	Apr. 03, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-048	Japo, Alex R.	R & CA Corporation	Apr. 03, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-047	Ngitiyeb, Leonardo B.	R & CA Corporation	Apr. 03, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-046	Roque, Joseph M.	R & CA Corporation	Apr. 03, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-118	Abergas, Ronnie C.	Reliance Construction Inc.	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-081	Gao, Jingjing	Rui Jin Trading Corp	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-134	Paragas, Shiene R.	Santos, Rodrigo P.	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-003	Fami, Tessie T.	Santos, Vicente M.	Apr. 03, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-058	Argabioso, Wilma M.	SBR Ent. Inc.	Apr. 03, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-059	Sabugo, Felicidad S.	SBR Ent. Inc.	Apr. 03, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-148	Jota, Irene De Guzman	Secharkebur, Ma. Ana O.	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-181	Martinez, Rhona L.	Sigua, Eleazar Y.	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-072	Dayapan, Virgie L.	Spn Emp Agncy And Svcs Inc	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-073	Dayapan, Virgie L.	Spn Emp Agncy And Svcs Inc	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-070	Quinto, Erlinda Christie A.	Spn Emp Agncy And Svcs Inc	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-071	Soria, Orly Gadil	Spn Emp Agncy And Svcs Inc	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-152	Marzan, Lydia Timotea R.	Tenorio, Ray And Janice	Apr. 10, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-083	Tesoro, Pancid N.	Untalan, Magdalena	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-060	Cao, Xiao Jun	Xing Wang Development Corp.	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-082	Deng, Yanjiao	Xing Wang Development Corp.	Apr. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-019	Cai, Zhen	Zheng Shi Corporation	Apr. 03, 2008	9:00 a.m.

DD Council cites advocates of the year

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
Rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities recognized their 2008 advocates of the year during a luncheon and awards ceremony on Saturday at Pacific Islands Club.

Awards went to:

- Community Member of the Year, Bud White;
- Public Entity of the Year, Aqua Resort Club;
- Private Business Advocate of the Year, Green Meadow Day Care;
- Employer Advocate of the Year, Pacific Islands Club Saipan;
- Transportation Advocate of the Year, Saipan Call-a-Ride;
- Family Advocate of the Year, Larissa Larson and Marissa F. Guerrero;
- Self Advocate of the Year, Jason Teregeyo;
- Advocate of the Year, Larissa Larson; and
- Educator Advocate of the

Year, Ron Calvo.

The purpose of the DD Council is to bring about necessary systematic change and enhance the quality of life and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities in the CNMI

to become independent, productive, integrated and fully included in the community.

The Council is also responsible for ensuring that service networks are providing people with developmental disabilities

the necessary programs that would enable them to reach their maximum potential.

The awards ceremony concluded the March 2008 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.



CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities 2008 Transportation Advocate of the year awardee, Saipan Call-a-Ride, represented by Lisa Ada-Aldan with board members Marissa F. Guerrero, Joan Aquino and Frances Diaz during the awarding ceremony at the Pacific Islands Club Saturday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities 2008 Advocate of the Year and Family Advocate of the year awardee Larissa Larson and Family Advocate of the year awardee Marissa F. Guerrero with board members Joan Aquino and Frances Diaz during the awarding ceremony at the Pacific Islands Club Saturday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 31, 2000

Art. 12 restrictions hamper NMHC's home loan program

The exclusive right to own a land granted by the CNMI Constitution to people of Chamorro and Carolinian descent remains a major hindrance in the growth of real estate financing in the Northern Marianas, according to Housing Corporation Executive Director Marylou S. Ada. Ms. Ada said Article 12 in the Commonwealth Constitution which restricts land ownership in the islands to local residents hamper the housing corporation's efforts to move home mortgage financing to a much better scale.

Reinforce ban on meat from Japan, S. Korea

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources has ordered the Quarantine Office to strictly enforce a ban on the importation of meat from South Korea and Japan due to the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease in these two countries. While imported meat on the island comes mainly from the United States, the department has expressed concern that tourists coming from these countries may bring in meat to the island, according to Marianne Teregeyo, special assistant at DLNR.

Gov't projects \$226M revenue for FY2001

In apparent sign of growing confidence on the island's economy, the Tenorio administration has projected revenues to reach about \$226 million for FY 2001 -- up by over six percent from the current fiscal year's estimated collections of \$211 million. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio is expected to submit by April 1 to the Legislature for approval of the new budget proposal as provided under the Constitution.

March 31, 2003

DPH on alert vs entry of SARS virus

Passengers from Asia, particularly Hong Kong, China, and Singapore, would undergo stricter screening at all ports of entry in the CNMI following the spread of a fatal and mysterious illness called severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) at these places. According to the Department of Public Health, local authorities have met to implement a course of action to reduce the risk of possible entry of the disease into the CNMI.

Federal Reserve Bank allows BoS to reopen account

The Bank of Saipan will not be reopening on the first week of April as earlier projected, but its receiver indicated that several prerequisites to the reopening are falling into place. Among receiver Antonio Muna's precondition for the reopening is the reestablishment of relationship with the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco (FRB) and local banks to allow off-island and local clearing of BoS checks.

Tinian University gets temporary license

The State Board of Regents has granted Tinian University a one-year provisional license to offer a postsecondary program. The license, however, restricts the new university from offering credit courses until fall this year when it shall have acquired basic equipment and instruction tools, including library materials and hired faculty.

March 31, 2004

Casinos on the three islands?

Former governor Froilan Tenorio is pushing for the legalization of casinos on Saipan and Rota, citing its importance to boost the local economy. In an interview with reporters Monday, Tenorio said he plans to bring up the issue with the CNMI Legislature, more likely the Senate. He said he hopes the bill would be introduced by a Senate member from Rota or Saipan.

Non-FDIC banks pressed to get coverage

Banks not covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. are under more pressure to obtain FDIC coverage, with the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism stressing the need for these banks to be federally insured within five years. During a House committee public hearing yesterday afternoon, proponents of House Bill 14-66 explored the possibilities on how non-FDIC banks could be strictly monitored so they could be in compliance with federal regulations.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Date: 03/31/2008

Closing Date: 04/11/2008

POSITION	DIVISION/SECTION	JVA NO.
Trades Assistant	Power Generation	08-011
Trades Technician	Power Generation	08-012
Accounting Technician (Customer Service)	Administration/F&B	08-013
Meter Reader	Administration/Billing	08-014
Compliance Technician	Administration/Compliance	08-015
Accounting Assistant (Cashier)	Accounting/Treasury	08-016

LOCATION: COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION, SAIPAN

For detailed information on the duties and responsibilities and the minimum qualifications, please visit the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Room 13.

CUC IS EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members of the Grace Christian Academy team gather for a photo with Rep. Joseph N. Camacho during the Junior High Mock Trial at the U.S. District Court in Garapan on Saturday. Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities sponsored the event.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members of the Rota Junior High School team gather for a photo with Rep. Joseph N. Camacho during the Junior High Mock Trial at the U.S. District Court in Garapan on Saturday. Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities sponsored the event.

6 schools participate in mock trial tourney

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
Rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Five junior high school teams participated in a non-competitive junior high mock trial presided over by Rep. Joseph N. Camacho (R-Saipan) at the Horiguchi Building Saturday.

The event, which lasted for four hours, was hosted by the CNMI Humanities Council and was intended to introduce junior high school students to the mock trial program in an enjoyable format to prepare them for the competitive mock trial program that they will encounter in high school.

The participating schools were the Grace Christian Academy, which fielded two teams, Rota Junior High School, Mount Carmel School, and Saipan International School.

At the end of each session, Camacho provided students with advice on how to go about court cross examinations and the best time to use "objection."

"Objections are intended to keep improper evidence out of the court," Camacho addressed the students. "But if used skillfully it can also throw the opposing side off-center."

He explained that during cross examinations, the attorney uses the witness to tell the story.

"The attorney is the one telling the story, just using the witness as the mouthpiece. That's why cross examination is a very stylized form of speaking," Camacho said.

He added that it takes many attorneys years of schooling and experience to master cross examination and the use of objections.

He also advised the students to once in a while go to traffic court or other small cases because the rules of evidence and objections are similar to murder cases.

He praised Grace Christian Academy for their exceptional use of objection and encouraged members to join the mock trial team when they reach high school.

Camacho commended Rota Junior High School for participating in this year's event and for "doing an even more wonderful job" than last year's.

The annual junior high mock trial was opened to all public and private seventh and eighth grade classes on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

RAMON MANIBUSAN CAMACHO
P.O. Box 7037 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950

Telephone No.: (670) 256-2001

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of)	FCD AD
The Adoption Of:)	CIVIL
A.J.E.C.,)	ACTION
)	NO. 08-0155
Minor Child,)	NOTICE
Ramon Manibusan-)	OF HEARING
Camacho,)	
)	
Petitioner.)	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on May 15, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205 before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 28 day of March 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

JAM ATTACK INDOOR VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

When: April 4, 5, & 6, 2008

Divisions: Men's & Women's
maximum of 12 players per team

Team Capt's Meeting: Monday at 6:00pm

Where: Ada Gym

Cost: \$125/team

Prizes: Cash (Amount to be determined by entries),
plus assorted PTI prizes

Gatorade for players to be provided by Pacific Trading Company

3-full days of jammin' volleyball fun - spectators welcome!



For more information, call Elias Rangamar at 664-2502 or Janice Camacho at 323-6560. This competition is being organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



Department of Public Health
Women, Infants and Children Program
Navy Hill Bldg N-25



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

On August 8, 2007 the Department of Public Health officially opened the Women, Infants and Children Program, better known as "WIC."

The WIC Program is 100% federally funded, and provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, and health care referrals for pregnant and new mothers, infants and children below the age of five (5).

The WIC Program's goals are to reduce nutrition related health problems, promote breastfeeding, prevent anemia, and help lower medical costs for low-income families in the CNMI.

WIC foods include iron-fortified infant formula and infant cereal, iron-fortified adult cereal, vitamin C-rich fruit or vegetable juice, eggs, milk, cheese, peanut butter, dried beans/peas, tuna fish and carrots. Special therapeutic infant formulas and medical foods may be provided when prescribed by a physician for a specified medical condition.

The Program would like to thank the community for its patience during the initial phase of operation, and would like to assure the residents of Rota and Tinian that plans are underway to bring services to these respective islands. More information will be provided when the proposed opening dates are confirmed.

Eligible participants must meet income guidelines, CNMI residency requirements, and be determined to be "nutritionally at risk" by a health professional.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 236-8750/58 or visit the WIC Clinic in the CHC Dialysis Center, north entrance.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
 Volume XVIII, Issue No. 50

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
 Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
 Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Policing Congress

The strongest ethics rules in the world don't mean much without an effective way to enforce them. That's especially clear when it comes to Congress, whose enforcement process is designed to create gridlock and has too often performed accordingly. This month the House adopted an important change that holds the promise of ending this bipartisan lassitude. Pressed by the Democratic leadership under Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., a not-entirely-enthusiastic majority voted narrowly to create an independent Office of Congressional Ethics.

This office will have a board of six members, to be named jointly by the speaker and the minority leader; these are to be "individuals of exceptional public standing who are specifically qualified to serve on the board by virtue of their education, training, or experience in one or more of the following fields: legislative, judicial, regulatory, professional ethics, business, legal, and academic."

The office will have the power to accept ethics complaints and, at the behest of at least one appointee of each party, launch investigations of potential ethical missteps by lawmakers and staff. If it finds reason to proceed, it will refer the matter to the existing House ethics committee, along with its factual findings and recommendations for subpoenas, if needed. The final disposition—and any recommendations for punishment—would be left to the ethics panel.

This is not a perfect system by any means. We would have preferred to have the board itself empowered to subpoena evidence. But this change reflects a vast, and overdue, improvement over the current process. The alternative that Republicans offered was a joke. They proposed to expand the existing ethics committee (from 10 to 14 members) and to require it to complete investigations within 90 days or refer the matter to the Justice Department. This proposal misconstrued the fundamental job of the committee, which is to deal with ethical issues that often do not rise to the level of criminal violations. It also misunderstands the essential nature of the problem, which is that, whatever its size, the committee is programmed for inaction.

"We don't need a new layer of bureaucracy to stand between those who break the rules and those who must enforce them," Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, said in arguing against the new board. Actually, a new layer with the capacity to spur the ethics committee into action is precisely what's needed. And what's needed now is for Pelosi and Boehner to turn their attention to finding the kind of "individuals of exceptional public standing" who are needed to help Congress get its ethical house in order.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



Hurrah for 'The Month of the Child'

Let's select a month to celebrate as a time to re-ignite the beauty and magic of childhood for children of all ages from birth to 100 years old. Underneath our gruffness and cynicism, we are all children at heart even if we have forgotten it. In our mad dash to survive and eke out a living, many of us forget the charm and mystery of "childness."

So let's make one month special in which we "talk with" children and "with each other" instead of "talking at" each other. If our own children are grown then share the joy with our grandchildren.

For one month, let's show and tell our children what our childhood was like. Dust out photos of when we were young with all the mementos. Share them together. Yes, even talk about the report cards you received in the same grades they are in now. I often take out my photos of childhood and with my children laugh and giggle at how I looked at say seven or 12 years old and at some of the crazy styles of clothing I wore. I point out my classmates to them, and the children ask where they are. I also wonder where they are and what they are doing.

Hand in hand, let's play and sing the joys of youth. Let's recapture over the month the magic of a time dear to all of us. Create a time to take out some of our favorite books of childhood stories. Who of us doesn't stop whatever he is doing when he hears the magical words: "Once upon a time..."

Together read with them or view a video of the old classics *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Wizard of Oz*. Perhaps you may also enjoy some of my favorite stories about that silly Winnie the Pooh. Grab a book of Mother Goose, the grand lady who never grows old, and sing and clap your hands with the children in reckless glee. Don't forget Peter Pan and his boyish adventures. With a bucketful of buttery popcorn thrill once again with the children all the merry pranks of the boy who didn't want to become a grownup. Don't forget to sing *Follow the Leader*. And how can we ever forget the delightful fairy Tinkerbell with her magic wand! Join in the frolics of the Seven Dwarfs as they sing and play with Snow White. After all these years, will the Prince still come and save Snow White from the curse of the Wicked Witch? The list goes on and on. Yes, those were the magical days. Relive them with our children.

Tell the children that they have choices in life. Explain how the choices they make will turn them into winners or losers. Tell about the competition that awaits them in the cold world and teach them the secret to success in life—education. Help them to understand how their schoolwork is planning and molding them for their future in society. Guide them step by step in their crucial state of growing up.

Take time to tell and show the children how beautiful the world is. Open their eyes to the loveliness of a setting sun or the majesty of a rainbow as it sprays itself in a splendid arc across

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
 Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



the sky. Ask the child to pick a flower, smell it, stroke its petals and admire its beauty.

Show them that the world also has a dark side and how to cope with it. Stop denying children the wholeness of life. Let them experience and savor the good and the not so good. Don't build walls around them. Help them to experience all the sights, sounds, smells, and feelings that life offers.

When is the last time we listened to our children? I mean really listened. Ask them to tell what they feel happy about. What do they fear? We have to get into their world and explore it together. An amazing thing happens as we listen to them, we begin to listen to ourselves better. The idea is to explore their world together.

We must start early in letting our children know about the wondrous gold mine of imagination that is strictly their own. When did we lose ours? We must teach them that they are the only "they." No one else is like them. They are unique with unique qualities. It is our duty to help bring those qualities out.

We should explain about death and stop protecting and giving them concepts that we are all immortal. They have to understand that death is a normal part of the cycle of life and of the life force that ever flows through the universe. Let us share with our children that life is not only pain, misery and despair as so often seen and heard on daily television shows or in the newspapers. Instead balance those images with the daily miracles and fantastically beautiful things that happen around us daily. Remind them of the miracles and joys of life.

I am reminded of the words of Frederick Moffett: "Thus a child learns more through trial and error, more through pleasure than pain, more through experience than suggestion and telling, and more through suggestion than direction. And thus a child learns through affection, through love, through patience, through understanding, through belonging, through doing and through being."

During this special "month of the child," let's guide the children in their choice to become winners. Let's help them to keep burning in their breasts the wonder and mystery of "childness." At the same time let us rekindle the flicking flame still alive in our breasts. Too soon the child becomes the parent. Viva the month of the child!

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A day in the metropolis by the Huangpu

The Russian émigrés of the 1920s did not sing *By the Rivers of Babylon*, for the city by the Huangpu would earn the reputation of being the playground of the rich and famous after the decline of Tsarist Russia and anti-Semitism plagued the English parlors. Shanghai's Bund, however, faded with the triumph of the Communist Party, but even post-1949 Chou En Lai ascendancy, Shanghai remained the bastion of Mandarin literati.

I visited Shanghai after the Tiananmen Square uprising of '89 with a tour group organized for the diplomatic corps out of Manila. Deng Xiao Peng was eager to placate the critical West, so we were treated regally to the refined offerings of Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an, Suzhou and Hanzhou.

Po Dong (east of the river) was then but a swath of rice paddies, someone's Field-of-Dreams foresight that if you built the new airport, "they would come." Twenty years later, the world came, and then some. Shanghai now supersedes Manhattan's cost expensiveness, skyline expansiveness, and the volume of commercial transactions. It has become the most exciting trade center in the world, presiding over the most vibrant economy this side of the capitalist West and the socialist East.

We landed in '89 at Hong Qiao Airport, was billeted at Hilton in Po Xi (west of the river). The Huangpu district, where the famous Yu Gardens and its five dragon walls was then a must-see for visitors, was also in a seedy district catering to any taste from the bizarre to the exotic, the depraved and the celebrative, the traditional and the modern. But the Shanghai of that visit consisted of museum trips and Sun Yat Sen's leavings, Chinese opera and acrobatics, silk factories and products, and trips to the neighboring agricultural communes if only to witness acupuncture at the village—the prescribed guided tour.

I returned to the city a decade later, and if the first perspective was from the penthouse, this time it was from the revolutionary one-child family view. My *siao lao po* (little woman) who would sojourn in my care on Saipan in 2002, belonged to the protected and pampered one-child-family generation, describing herself without apology as a self-centered though not selfish individual. She had not known any life other than as the singular recipient of her parents' care. She sees the world as owing her a care!

Her view was of the vibrant commercial world of Nanjing Road, the boutiques and discotheques of the young, with their champagne tastes on Tsingdao beer budgets, their quiet rebellion and their indifference to formality and ritual, even those practices of filial pi-

ety. They traveled cyberspace, explored the new digital geography; they were consumers and purveyors of Hollywood, glitteratis gone Mandarin. They embraced the new Metro and its magnetic levitator, still a prototype in Germany where it originated, but already commercially applied in the city by the Huangpu. They coveted the privileges of the U.S. green card, were relentless in their pursuit. The Shanghai of my *siao lao po* is reported by CNN and MTV, and for whom the new high-rise apartments, condominiums, suburban homes and its requisite superhighways and malls are being built.

This trip, my fourth, afforded me a different perspective. I was met at Pudong and whisked into a taxi all the way to the city's Westside, taken to a hotel abutting a bustling elevated highway. I knew I was into something less mainstream when I

Our meals were at open stalls where customers were oblivious of the cold; the ladies had more than their share of rosy cheeks. The steaming food may not have been to the absolute liking of the health department, but my Ilocano stomach, I felt, was more than adequate for the challenge.

was told to leave my luggage with my friends, to walk straight into the elevator and proceed directly to the designated room on the fifth floor. My colleagues giggled when they followed later. The hotel was only for locals, foreigners are charged double the rate. They were thrilled at the adrenalin rush resulting in having put one over their own local establishment!

Heavy fog/smog wrapped the city this time; the morning mist fared no better. The area where we were is not frequented by foreigners, the signage being exclusively Chinese. The dampness revealed sooty dust that clung to everything, but the mist did not faze the early morning traffic as ladies made up and coiffed like they are about to shoot a fashion spread, toot-tooted it along the crowded lanes of motorized and pedaled two-wheelers, the latter about to be rendered obsolete by the city's new romance with oil.

The group later moved to another hotel in the downtown Huangpu district. Again, I was told to be inconspicuous to management, obviously for the same reason as the previous hotel. The narrow streets that marked the district had been replaced by wide and

Lessons from Japan's malaise

A little knowledge can be not just dangerous but grossly misleading. That is the right conclusion to draw from the latest, surprisingly reassuring data about the U.S. economy and from the interview in Thursday's Wall Street Journal in which Sen. Hillary Clinton warned that America must avoid a "Japanese-like situation."

Clinton should have researched what actually happened in Japan after its financial crash before using the bogeyman of a Japan-style malaise to support her proposal that taxpayers' money be used to bail out holders of troubled mortgages. She thinks that Japan's mistake was to rely excessively on monetary policy to rescue its economy, rather than on fiscal and other measures. The truth is the exact opposite.

Japan's stock market collapse began in January 1990 and continued throughout that year. The property market followed, with a lag. Yet the Bank of Japan did not try to prevent this financial crash from damaging the real economy by cutting interest rates, as the U.S. Federal Reserve has done spectacularly during the past three months. To the contrary, Japan's central bank used its monetary policy as if to make sure that the country's asset-price bubble had truly burst: It carried on (begin ital) raising (end ital) interest rates until September 1990 and did not make its first cut until July 1991, 17 months after the financial crisis began.

In fact, the Bank of Japan did not begin using monetary policy as an aggressive tool to arrest the slump until deflation had set in toward the end of the 1990s. Japan did do two things: It used a massive increase in public spending, particularly on construction projects, to try to rescue indebted firms and to inject public money into the economy; and it helped banks conceal the true extent of their losses and their bad-debt burdens, in order to prevent markets from clearing at painfully low prices.

The best that can be said about the Japanese experience is that its vast fiscal stimulus may have averted a deep recession at the price of a long stagnation. It also greatly delayed the necessary restructuring of the country's banking system and, by providing huge cash flows to political lobbies, greatly delayed political reform — a mistake from which the country is still suffering.

The circumstances of Japan in 1990 and the United States today

are, of course, different. Nevertheless, some parallels that can be drawn may be instructive.

One is a bearish indicator that should make economists and financial markets cautious about U.S. economic data. In Japan in the early 1990s, it took an amazingly long time for the collapsing financial system to drag the economy down. Indeed, for two years, some commentators claimed that the crisis was a mirage, a trick by the Finance Ministry to convince foreigners that Japan was in trouble when in fact it was still steaming ahead.

It took so long for the underlying economic impact to become visible because the first losers in Japan's stock market crash were financial: banks, insurance companies and other institutional inves-

In Japan in the early 1990s, it took an amazingly long time for the collapsing financial system to drag the economy down. Indeed, for two years, some commentators claimed that the crisis was a mirage, a trick by the Finance Ministry to convince foreigners that Japan was in trouble when in fact it was still steaming ahead.

tors. The damage to the real economy came when private companies and consumers began to find their credit conditions worsening and their debt-service costs unaffordable.

So far, given the magnitude of events in U.S. and European credit markets and in the U.S. housing market, the economic data are quite mild. It feels as though a recession is coming, but unemployment has not risen much and credit conditions for corporations have not tightened much. This week's housing data even suggest the construction slump might soon be over and price drops might slow.

The real lesson from Japan is: Be careful in jumping to judgment. Of course, it could be that the data speak the truth: that there are enough supportive elements in the economy, such as rising exports and an expansionary monetary policy, to keep the

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune



straight roads, with the Fuxing and Henan Roads quadrangulating the city of old. The alleys that once exuded diverse aroma wafting off many a hot wok are gone. A new clothing mall for the hoi polloi is in place.

The Haopu Apparel City claims that the brands normally available at boutiques (e.g., Christian Dior, *et al*) are no longer on sale on the premises, a concession to copyright infringement previously taken lightly before China joined the WTO. The products on display, however, showed that the items come from the same production line, albeit, with different tags. Even Haband of my Man'amko circuit cannot compete with the quality and prices of the any of the sartorial offerings. The view from this level of the economic class was quite different. The old *yi mao qian* (coin denominated below a Yuan) still counts and kept. Affluent China who thinks in euros and dollars remains an elusive vision for this class.

Our meals were at open stalls where customers were oblivious of the cold; the ladies had more than their share of rosy cheeks. The steaming food may not have been to the absolute liking of the health department, but my Ilocano stomach, I felt, was more than adequate for the challenge. Besides, the corn on the cob and steamed dumplings are served fresh, the varied noodles and numerous soup bases a challenge and a delight to the taste buds. Common folks do not hesitate to clear their throats loudly in public, and even ladies spit habitually if not defiantly directly onto the floor. (This is one area where I wish the Singapore Development Corporation, active in the China market, may exert its influence in shifting patterns of behavior like the miracle that occurred in the Sino-Malay city by the Malay peninsula!)

Then there is the ultimate sign of personal satisfaction, the unrestrained belching after a meal, practiced by all genders and by all age levels. After lunch, I was ready to scratch my tummy and go to sleep in the bus headed towards the Shanghai-Nanjing expressway. And yes, I gave out a Marianas-deep Fujian-loud belch!

By BILL EMMOTT

Special to The Washington Post

Bill Emmott, editor in chief of The Economist from 1993 to 2006, is the author of the forthcoming book Rivals, on China, India and Japan.



recession mild. It may be that corporate America as a whole has stronger balance sheets and less debt and so isn't affected the same way as was corporate Japan.

But it may take a while before the situation is that clear. We have yet to see how consumers will respond to declines in house prices and to job insecurity; we have yet to see how far the write-offs by banks and investment banks will feed into changing credit conditions for private companies.

The other lesson from Japan is that not allowing markets to clear, or at least reach some sort of new equilibrium, risks storing up even bigger problems for the future. The biggest differences between the U.S. and Japanese economic and financial systems lie in flexibility, transparency and rapid adjustment to new realities. America at its best is a mark-to-market, take-your-punches economy, whereas Japan was and is a cover-up economy.






That is why the thought of direct federal intervention in the housing and mortgage markets makes me squirm. To socialize the problem in that (massive) way would be profoundly un-American and, worse, could help turn recession into stagnation, as it did in Japan.

Such thoughts, anyway, are surely premature. An economy that has barely entered recession, with unemployment still below 5 percent, amid a buoyant global economic climate in which neither demand nor capital is scarce, is not an economy that requires such measures. For the moment, it needs what Ben Bernanke's Fed is doing, namely an expansionary monetary policy along with emergency actions to prevent bank collapses from bringing down the whole financial system. Unlike Hillary Clinton, Bernanke at least appears to have studied what actually happened in Japan during the 1990s.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲82° ▼75°	▲82° ▼75°	▲82° ▼75°	▲82° ▼76°	▲83° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼75
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼76
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲89 ▼76
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲88 ▼79
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲90 ▼81
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88 ▼75
Majuro	Cloudy	▲88 ▼79

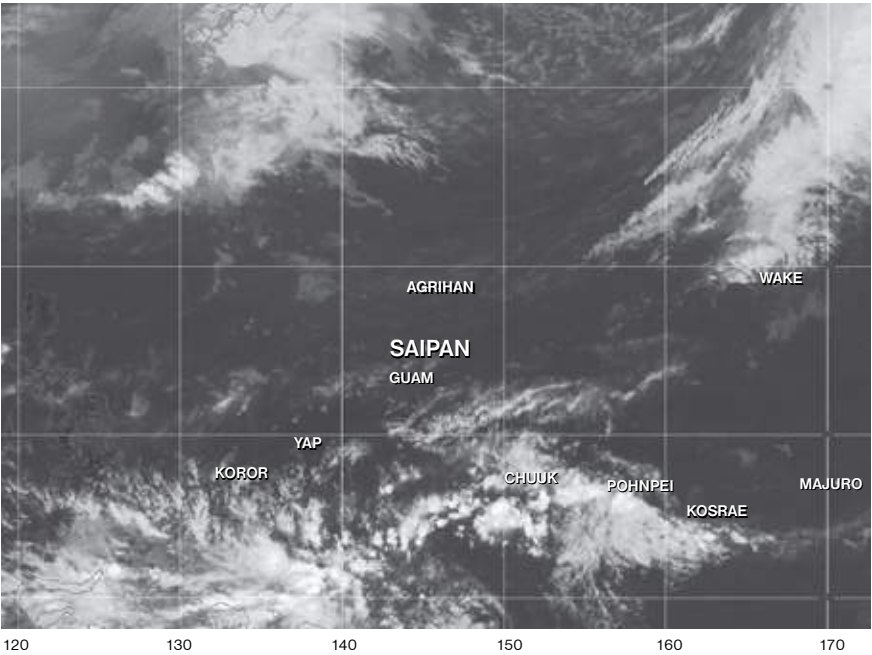
Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲72 ▼64
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲59 ▼45
Hong Kong	Showers	▲77 ▼68
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲79 ▼71
London	Cloudy	▲55 ▼43
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲69 ▼52
Manila	Cloudy	▲90 ▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲65 ▼51
Miami	Thundershowers	▲82 ▼72
New York	Rain	▲52 ▼46
Osaka	Showers	▲51 ▼40
Paris	Cloudy	▲54 ▼39
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲60 ▼40
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲68 ▼50
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲50 ▼31
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲63 ▼45
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲57 ▼37
Tokyo	Rain	▲52 ▼40
Washington, DC	Showers	▲52 ▼48

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
04:25AM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
09:14AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
01:22PM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
09:26PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MAR. 30, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front runs southwestward from 25N165E to 21N156E then continues as a diffuse shear line to 17N145E near Alamagan to end at 15N145E. Extensive cloudiness, scattered showers, and a few thunderstorms are found within 250 miles of the cold front. A near-equatorial trough south of Koror and Yap extends eastward from beyond 130E through a weak circulation centered near 3N137E to EQ140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between the equator and 6N from 130E to 142E. A surface trough extends from EQ144E to 7N150E. Converging trade-winds near and east of the trough are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Chuuk and southwest of Pohnpei and Kosrae within an area bounded by a line from 3N143E to 3N163E to 10N150E back to 3N143E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:13AM	6:29PM
Tuesday	6:13AM	6:29PM
Wednesday	6:12AM	6:30PM
Thursday	6:11AM	6:30PM
Friday	6:10AM	6:30PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:36AM	1:01PM
Tuesday	2:22AM	1:56PM
Wednesday	3:05AM	2:51PM
Thursday	3:46AM	3:45PM
Friday	4:27AM	4:40PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$182. Off-island subscription rate is \$376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 27, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:50pm 7:30pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:35am 3:05pm Daily NW 077 6:15pm 1:10am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 4:00am 7:35am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:50pm 9:35pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Administration pushes changes in regulations

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Bush administration is trying to confront the credit crisis that has rattled nerves from Wall Street to Main Street by proposing wholesale changes in how Washington oversees the financial system.



Paulson

A plan set for release Monday would give new powers to the Federal Reserve so that the central bank serves as the

system's overarching protector of stability.

The proposal would abolish agencies such as the Office of Thrift Supervision and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, shifting their responsibilities to other federal institutions.

When Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson outlines the ideas in a speech, the changes will represent the most sweep-

ing overhaul of financial regulation since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The Associated Press obtained a 22-page executive summary of the proposal. It seeks to make sense of the mishmash of overlapping oversight in which an alphabet-soup roster of agencies regulates banks, thrifts and credit unions.

Under the current hodgepodge, institutions that take deposits and are federally insured face multiple regulatory bodies.

Airlines lighten up to cut fuel costs

PHOENIX (AP)—Your ginger-ale doesn't come in a glass anymore on most US Airways flights. On Delta you'll find yourself in a thinner, lighter seat. If you fly JetBlue cross-country, you'll get a dainty bag of 100-calorie crisps in place of the original snack box of cookies, crackers and spreadable cheese.

With jet fuel prices so high, airlines have no choice but to scour their planes for ways to lighten the load. There's no room for even the smallest bits of dead weight, from redundant wing lights to extra wires in the walls. Manufacturers also are using lighter materials in plane construction.

"The pressure is immense" to cut weight, said John Heimlich, chief economist for the Air Transport Association of America, an industry trade group. "Every penny more per



A typical snack and beverage served on a Delta Airlines flight Friday, March 21, 2008, coming into Phoenix.

Jet fuel, which the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration tracked at \$3.17 per gallon in New York on Tuesday, has doubled since the beginning of 2007. It outpaced labor as the biggest airline expense three years ago. As of September 2007, fuel made up 27 percent of operating expenses for U.S. airlines, according to the latest data from the Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

The industry has struggled to keep up. Carriers have increased fares, cut capacity, parked their gas guzzler planes, charged customers to check a second bag, trimmed staff and pushed as many passengers as possible to automated kiosks.

Airlines also try to exert some control over fuel expenses through hedging, a practice of capping fuel prices months or years in advance with long-term contracts.

gallon adds \$195 million to the industry's expenses per year.

"You simply cannot make all of that up with fare increases."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Filing: Countrywide CEO to get \$10M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Countrywide Financial Corp.'s chief executive and president will receive a combined \$19 million in stock next week as part of the company's pending takeover by Bank of America Corp., according to a regulatory filing. The payments of stock valued at \$10 million for chief executive Angelo Mozilo and \$9 million for President David Sambol were disclosed in a regulatory filing late Thursday by Bank of America. The payments, described as "performance-based" stock rights and grants, are required by agreements the executives struck with Countrywide less than a year before the sub-prime meltdown forced the mortgage lender to sell itself, according to the filing.

UAW membership drops below 500,000

WASHINGTON (AP)—United Auto Workers union membership has fallen below 500,000 for the first time since World War II, reflecting the massive restructuring undertaken by Detroit's automakers. The union reported Friday in a filing with the Labor Department that it had 464,910 members by the end of 2007, compared with

538,448 at the end of 2006. UAW membership peaked in 1979 at 1.5 million but has been dropping ever since. Mike Smith, director of the Walter P. Reuther Library at Wayne State University in Detroit, said the last time the UAW had fewer than 500,000 members was in 1941. By 1945, UAW membership had surpassed one million.

Consumer spending weak in February

WASHINGTON (AP)—Consumers turned in the weakest spending performance in 17 months in February, while their confidence dropped to the lowest level in 16 years, raising further fears of a recession. The Commerce Department said Friday that consumer spending edged up by just 0.1 percent last month, the poorest showing since September 2006. And if the effects of inflation are removed, spending was flat in February, the third consecutive month of sluggish activity. Meanwhile, a second report showed the prolonged slump in housing, rising job layoffs, soaring energy costs and a severe credit crisis are taking their toll on consumer confidence. The Reuters/University of Michigan consumer sentiment survey dropped to 69.5 in March. That was down from 70.8 in February and represented the lowest reading in 16 years.



Saipan Tribune, the CNMI's first daily newspaper, is looking for fresh talent to join our team.

REPORTER

- At least two years' experience writing for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must know how to write hard news, features, and business stories;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, analytical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Computer literate and with driver's license.

SPORTS REPORTER

- At least two years' experience covering sports for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be willing to put in flexible work hours;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Computer literate and with driver's license;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be passionate about sports.

ART DIRECTOR

- At least five years' experience in the publishing industry or related field;
- Must have at least two years' supervisory experience in the field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have extensive knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

GRAPHIC ARTIST

- At least three years' experience in the publishing business or related field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have basic knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

- At least high school graduate;
- Typing speed of at least 40 words per minute
- Must have extensive experience using Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint);
- Must be familiar with Mac computers (knowledge in PC is a plus);
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, and a team player.

If you think you have what it takes to be part of this dynamic team, submit your most recent résumé and portfolio to the *Saipan Tribune*, located on the second floor of the CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan. Or e-mail it to editor@saipantribune.com. On-island hires preferred.

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Deputies: 2 cheetahs maul Fla. woman

WELLINGTON, Fla. (AP)—The owner of a wildlife sanctuary was attacked by two cheetahs Saturday and hospitalized with about 40 puncture wounds to her extremities and back, authorities said. Judy Berens was airlifted to Delray Medical Center, but it appears she has non-life threatening injuries, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said. Berens owns and operates Panther Ridge Conservation Center, which provides homes for exotic cats, authorities said. She was conducting an exhibition with two male cheetahs in an enclosure when one became distracted by a ball being bounced outside, the sheriff's office said. The cheetah moved toward the ball quickly and knocked her to the ground. The cheetah then pounced on her and began biting and clawing her, said Gabriella Ferraro, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission spokeswoman. At some point the other cheetah attacked her as well, Ferraro said. Several people entered the enclosure and rescued her, authorities said.

Search resumes for missing Ill. mother

BOLINGBROOK, Ill. (AP)—After a winter hiatus, more than 50 volunteers resumed their ground search Saturday for a suburban Chicago mother who went missing last fall. Searchers gathered in Bolingbrook, where Stacy Peterson was last seen in late October. Investigators are treating the case as a possible homicide and have named Peterson's husband, former Bolingbrook police officer Drew Peterson, as a suspect. A grand jury is looking into both her disappearance and the death of his ex-wife, Kathleen Savio. Drew Peterson, who hasn't been charged and denies any wrongdoing in both cases, has said Stacy left him for another man. A message left for Drew Peterson's attorney Saturday evening was not returned.

Students hail teacher's heroism in crash

SPRINGVILLE, Ala. (AP)—The driver of a bus carrying 44 children on a field trip passed out at the wheel, and a teacher's quick actions kept the vehicle from careening into oncoming traffic, students said. Math teacher Amy King grabbed the steering wheel and tried to straighten the swerving coach, witnesses told The Birmingham News. The crash Friday sent 20 people to the hospital, including the driver and King. King was thrown through the windshield and airlifted to UAB Hospital, where she was listed in serious condition, officials said. "She jumped over and pulled the wheel," said Alix Romano, a Bryan Elementary School fifth-grader who sat near the front of the bus. The bus, owned by Adventure Bus Charter & Tours Inc. of Sumiton, was headed north to Chattanooga's Tennessee Aquarium. It was the lead bus in a caravan with two other charter buses hired by the Morris school and cars driven by chaperones.

Group protests alleged police brutality

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Hundreds of people marched for two hours Saturday to protest the injuries a man suffered during a traffic stop, saying police used excessive force. An officer struck Koua Moua, 39, with a police radio and wrestled him to the ground during the traffic stop on Feb. 17, according to a criminal complaint. Police say Moua dragged the officer with his truck, and the officer feared for his life. Marchers carried signs that showed Moua's battered face and swollen eye. He needed 10 stitches to close a wound under his eye, according to his attorney, Alan Eisenberg. Some held signs that said "No room for police brutality." The crowd chanted, "No justice, no peace" in English and Hmong. Moua is Hmong, and the Hmong community has rallied around him.

Casings link man to Va. shootings

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Shell casings recovered near a series of six highway shootings in Virginia match casings found inside a suspect's vehicle, state police said Saturday.

The random shootings along Interstate 64 and potshots taken at a credit union and a home early Thursday led investigators to shut down a 20-mile stretch of the highway between Waynesboro and Charlottesville, reopening it around dawn. Two people were slightly injured.

The shootings stirred memories of the Washington-area sniper shootings six years ago that killed 10 people.

The ballistic analysis by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

linked shell casings from a Ruger .22-caliber magnum rifle to casings found near the interstate and in a 1974 AMC Gremlin owned by Slade Allen Woodson, 19, of Afton. The weapon was seized at a farm in Crozet where Woodson was arrested Friday. Authorities also charged a 16-year-old from Crozet whose name was not released.

"The motive—that's what they're trying to determine now," state police spokeswoman Corinne Geller said.

Surveillance video at the Waynesboro credit union captured a light-colored AMC Gremlin around the time shots were fired there. Police found the car Thursday afternoon, abandoned along a road.

Katrina victims may have to repay money

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Imagine that your home was reduced to mold and wood framing by Hurricane Katrina.

Desperate for money to rebuild, you engage in a frustrating bureaucratic process, and after months of living in a government-provided trailer tainted with formaldehyde you finally win a federal grant.

Then a collector calls with the staggering news that you have to pay back thousands of dollars.

Thousands of Katrina victims may be in that situation.

A private contractor under investigation for the compensation it received to run the Road Home grant program for Katrina victims says that in the rush to deliver aid to homeowners in need some people got too much. Now it wants to hire a separate company to collect millions in grant overpayments.

The contractor, ICF International of Fairfax, Va., revealed the extent of the overpayments when it issued a March 11 request for bids from companies willing to handle "approximately 1,000 to 5,000 cases that will necessitate collection effort."

The bid invitation said: "The average amount to be collected is estimated to be approximately \$35,000, but in some cases may be as high as \$100,000 to \$150,000."

The biggest grant amount allowed by the Road Home program is \$150,000, so ICF believes it paid some recipients the maximum when they should not have received a penny. If ICF's highest estimate of 5,000 collection cases - overpaid by an average of \$35,000 - proves to be true, that means applicants will have to pay back a total of \$175 million.

One-third of qualified applicants for Road

Home help had yet to receive any rebuilding check as of this past week. The program, which has come to symbolize the lurching Katrina recovery effort, is financed by \$11 billion in federal funds.

ICF spokeswoman Gentry Brann said in an e-mail Friday that the overpayments are the inevitable result of the Road Home grant being recalculated to account for insurance money and government aid given to Katrina victims.

Brann said there was a sense of urgency in paying Road Home applicants, and ICF and the state knew applicants would have to return some money.

"The choice was either to process grants immediately or wait until the March 2008 deadline (for submitting Road Home applications) before disbursing any funds," Brann said in her e-mail.

Obama says Clinton should keep running

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Barack Obama refused Saturday to go along with other Democrats who are calling for Hillary Rodham Clinton to step away from the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

"My attitude is Senator Clinton can run as long as she wants," Obama said.

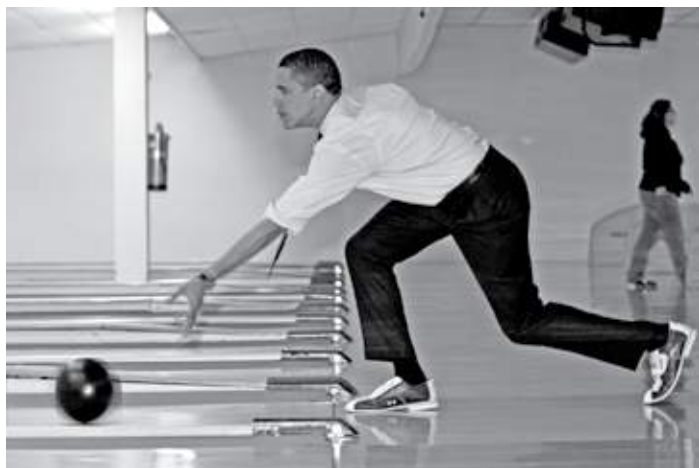
Obama told reporters he did not agree with one of his supporters, Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy, when he said earlier this week that Clinton cannot win the nomination and should therefore drop out. "I hadn't talked to Pat about it," Obama said.

At stops throughout the day, Clinton raised the question of whether she should leave the race - eliciting loud jeers from supporters.

"There are some people who say we should just stop these elections. 'Enough people have already voted, what's a few million more?'" Clinton said in Louisville, Ky. "I don't know about you but I'm glad Kentucky is going to be voting and you'll be choosing because it's such an important election." The state holds its primary May 20.

Campaigning in Pennsylvania, her husband, Bill Clinton, said party insiders looking to resolve the contest should step back and allow the process to move forward.

"We just need to relax and let this happen. Nobody's talking about wrecking the party," the former president said. "Everywhere I go, all these working people say: 'Don't you dare let her drop out. Don't listen to those people in



Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Barack Obama D-Ill., bowls at Pleasant Valley Recreation Center in Altoona, Pa., Saturday, March 29, 2008.

Washington, they don't represent us."

The campaign on Saturday released a fundraising e-mail, signed by Bill Clinton, asking supporters to challenge talk of his wife departing the race by sending a check to her campaign.

"There's no better way to tell Hillary that you support her staying in than to make a contribution to her campaign," he wrote.

Obama offered a bit of tough love to Pennsylvania voters, saying some industrial and manufacturing jobs may not return to this steel region, but others could take their place.

Clinton also stressed job creation at campaign stops in Indiana and Kentucky, vowing to help manufacturers transition to new industries like clean energy and ending tax breaks for American companies that ship jobs overseas.



INTERSTATE ACCIDENT

A driver severely burned when his tanker truck filled with fuel rolled over and exploded on a western Massachusetts interstate has died, authorities said Saturday. Investigators said Aaron Staelens, 43, of Richmond swerved after a car struck him, causing his tanker to crash into a guardrail on Interstate 91 in Chicopee early Friday. He died several hours later, according to a spokeswoman for Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. The trailer separated from the tanker, rolled over the guardrail and down an embankment as the cab and trailer burst into flames, police said. Here, fire and law enforcement officials work at the scene of the crash on Interstate 91 Friday, March 28, 2008, in Chicopee, Mass.

AP

Asia

Activists: New Tibet protests break out

BEIJING (AP) -- Fresh protests broke out in the Tibetan capital Lhasa on Saturday as foreign diplomats wrapped up a tightly controlled visit organized by Beijing, a radio broadcaster and Tibetan activists reported.

A protest began Saturday afternoon at Lhasa's Ramoche monastery and grew to involve "many people," said Kate Saunders of the Washington-based International Campaign for Tibet.

Citing unnamed witnesses in the city, Saunders said the situation calmed down after a few hours. She had no information on injuries or arrests.

People also protested at the Jokhang Temple, a major Buddhist site in Lhasa,

the government-in-exile of the Tibetan Buddhist leader, the Dalai Lama, said on its Web site. The India-based government gave no other details.

Several hundred people took part in the protests, the U.S.-funded broadcaster Radio Free Asia reported.

The Ramoche and Jokhang monasteries and other sites were sealed off by security forces, Saunders said. Ramoche was the original site of protests that spread earlier this month and led to a crackdown by the Chinese government.

The reports of new protests came as a 15-member group of diplomats from the United States, Japan and

Europe returned to Beijing after a two-day visit to Lhasa.

The descriptions of new protests could not be independently confirmed and China issued no immediate response.

An American Embassy spokeswoman said she had no information on any protests. A Japanese diplomat, Mitsuhiro Wada, said, "No," when asked at the Beijing airport whether he saw any protests.

The diplomats' plane left Lhasa at about 1 p.m., according to the U.S. Embassy, an hour before the reported start of the protest at the Ramoche monastery.

Beijing is trying to enforce calm in Tibet and buttress its claim that the most violent anti-Chinese protests since 1989 were incited by forces linked to the Dalai Lama.

Diplomats toured damaged areas of Lhasa and met people selected by Chinese authorities, who accompanied them at all times, the American Embassy said in a brief statement.

"The delegation was not permitted to move about independently in Lhasa, and was unable to hold unsupervised conversations with local residents," the statement said.

The statement gave no other details but repeated Washington's appeal to China to show restraint.

The British Embassy and the European Union mission in Beijing had no

immediate comment.

After the March 14 violence in Lhasa, protests spread across ethnic Tibetan areas in neighboring provinces in the most widespread challenge to communist rule since 1989.

Beijing says 22 people were killed in Lhasa, while Tibetan exiles put the overall death toll at 140.

The unrest was a public relations disaster for communist leaders, who want to use the Beijing Olympics to showcase China as a prosperous, stable society.

A group of foreign reporters was taken on a similar trip to Lhasa earlier in the week. That effort backfired when about 30 monks burst into a briefing room shouting that there was no religious freedom in Tibet.

Vietnam man runs 'abortion orphanage'

By **MARGIE MASON**
AP MEDICAL WRITER

NHA TRANG, Vietnam (AP)—Sitting cross-legged on a straw mat in the middle of the living room, Tong Phuoc Phuc sings a soothing Vietnamese lullaby. For a moment, his deep voice works magic, and the tiny room crammed with 13 babies is still.

Phuc giggles like a proud papa. He's not related to any of them, but without him, many of these children likely would have been aborted. And to Phuc, abortion is unimaginable.

The 41-year-old Catholic from the coastal town of Nha Trang has opened his door to unwed expectant mothers in a country that logs one of the world's highest abortion rates. In 2006, there were more than 114,000 abortions at state hospitals in Ho Chi Minh City - outnumbering births.

Most pregnant, unmarried Vietnamese women have few options. Abortion is a welcome choice for many who simply cannot afford to care for a baby or are unwilling to risk being disowned by their families.

The communist government calls premarital sex a "social evil." Abortion, however, is legal and performed at nearly every hospital. And unlike in some Western countries where the issue is hotly contested, the practice stirs little debate here.

But shelters for women who want to keep their babies are rare. Phuc promises them food and a roof until they give birth, and then cares for the children until the mothers can afford to take them. In the past four years, he's taken in 60 kids, with about half still living in his two houses.

"Sometimes we have 10 mothers living here ... sleeping on the floor," says Phuc, a thin man with dark, weathered skin and teeth stained brown from years of smoking. "The problem is that a lot of young people live together and have sex, but they have no knowledge about getting pregnant. So they get abortions."

Phuc says he made a deal with God seven years ago when his wife encountered complications while in labor with their son. He vowed that if they were spared, he would find a



Tong Phuoc Phuc feeds babies inside one of his homes in Nha Trang, central Vietnam, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2008.

way to help others. As his wife lay recuperating after the difficult birth, he recalls seeing many pregnant women going into the delivery room but always leaving alone.

"I was wondering, 'where are the babies?'" he says, cradling an infant in each arm. "Then I realized they had abortions."

Phuc, a building contractor, started saving money to buy a craggy plot of land outside town. He then began collecting unwanted fetuses from hospitals and clinics to bury in graves on the property. At first, doctors and neighbors thought he had gone mad. Even his wife questioned spending their savings to build a cemetery for aborted babies.

But he kept on, and now some 7,000 tiny plots dot the shady hillside, many marked with bright red, pink and yellow artificial roses.

"I believe these fetuses have souls," says Phuc, who has two children of his own. "And I don't want them to be wandering souls."

Vietnam was ranked as having the world's highest abortion rate in a 1999 report by the U.S.-based Guttmacher Institute, which tracks the statistics. More recent reliable data for both public and private clinics are unavailable. Aid agency Pathfinder International says abortions remain high in Vietnam but appear to be declining slightly.

Dr. Vo Thi Kim Loan has run her own clinic just outside Ho Chi Minh

City since 1991. She says the number of young, unmarried women seeking quick, discreet abortions has increased with more teen girls having sex before marriage. She also still sees a steady stream of married women coming in for repeat abortions because their husbands disapprove of contraceptives.

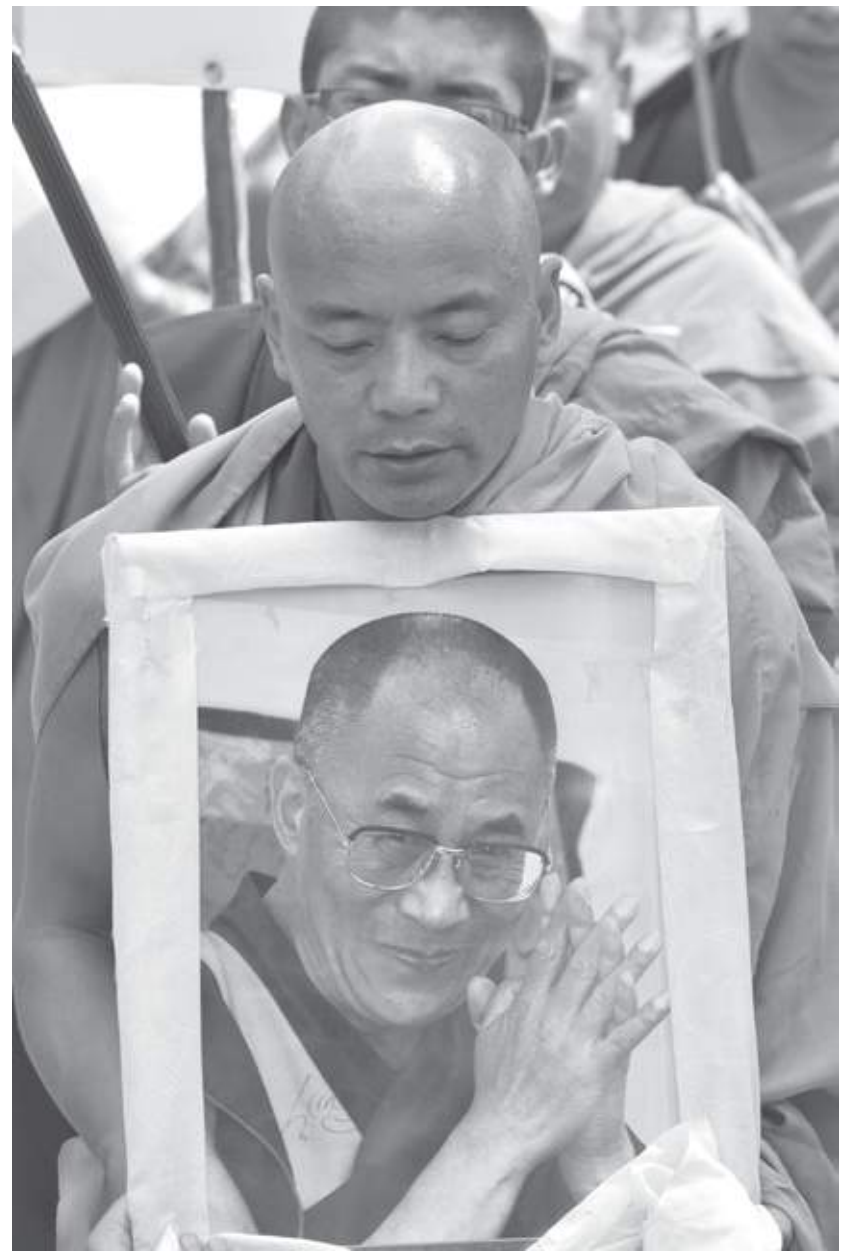
Preference for boys is another factor. Vietnamese women with access to ultrasound sometimes terminate pregnancies after discovering they're carrying girls in a country where couples are encouraged to have just two children.

Phuc isn't sure why so many Vietnamese choose abortion and says more women need to understand safer forms of birth control are available.

He says word of his unusual graveyard eventually spread, and women who had undergone abortions started visiting to pray and burn incense. Phuc urged them to tell others considering the same option to talk with him first.

Phan Thi Hong Vu looks lovingly at her chubby 7 1/2-month-old baby boy sucking on a pacifier surrounded by all the other babies on Phuc's floor. She shivers at the thought of how close she came to losing him.

"I actually went to the hospital intending to get an abortion, but I was so scared," says Vu, who was 3 1/2 months pregnant at the time. "I decided to go home and think about it. Two weeks later, I met with Phuc."



An exiled Tibetan Buddhist monk carries a portrait of the Dalai Lama at a protest in Dharmasala, India, Saturday, March 29, 2008.

Pakistan PM pledges terror talks

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's new prime minister vowed Saturday to make the war on terror his No. 1 priority, but said peace talks and aid programs could be more effective than weapons in fighting militancy in tribal areas along the Afghan border.

It was the new government's latest rebuke of President Pervez Musharraf's military tactics, which many Pakistanis believe have led to a spike in domestic attacks.

Washington is seeking reassurance that Pakistan's new coalition government will keep the pressure on extrem-

ist groups using the country's lawless northwest frontier as a springboard for attacks in Afghanistan and beyond.

In his first major policy speech since his swearing-in, Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani said boosting government services to the region could lure tribesmen away from extremism.

"Our tribal areas have long suffered from backwardness. There is a dire need for comprehensive economic, social and political reforms because poverty and illiteracy is promoting terrorism," said Gilani, a loyalist of assassinated former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Zimbabweans vote, in test for Mugabe

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabweans voted Saturday on whether to keep the ruler blamed by opponents for their country's economic collapse, though President Robert Mugabe's challengers claimed the election was rigged even before the polls opened. The main opposition party said it was investigating reports of thousands of voters being turned away from polls and the discovery of stuffed ballot boxes in one district. African observers also questioned thousands of names on official rolls. The election presented Mugabe with the toughest political challenge to his 28-year rule. He dismissed allegations that the vote was rigged to keep him in power. "I cannot sleep with a clear conscience if there is any cheating," Mugabe, 84, said after voting and promising to respect results. "If you lose an election and are rejected by the people, it is time to leave politics."

Shiite leader al-Sadr defies Iraq gov't

BAGHDAD (AP)—Anti-American Shiite militia leader Muqtada al-Sadr ordered his followers Saturday to defy government orders to surrender their weapons. Government television said the round-the-clock curfew imposed two days ago on the capital and due to expire Sunday would be extended indefinitely. Gunfire and explosions were heard late Saturday in Sadr City, the Baghdad stronghold of al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia. The U.S. Embassy tightened its security measures, ordering all staff to use armored vehicles for all travel in the Green Zone and to sleep in reinforced buildings until further notice after six days of rocket and mortar attacks that left two Americans dead.

Australian leader criticizes Sudan

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Australia's new prime minister on Saturday accused Sudan's government of obstructing deployment of a U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force to help end the five-year conflict in Darfur. At a news conference after meeting with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Kevin Rudd called Darfur "a continuing humanitarian tragedy" and said that action by the international community "is currently being frustrated still by the government of Sudan." "And our government is of the view that these matters soon need to be brought back to the U.N. Security Council so that the government of Sudan can be held properly to account for its continued obstruction," he said. More than 200,000 have died in Sudan's Darfur region and 2.5 million have fled to refugee camps since 2003.

US: 16 killed in Basra airstrikes



A woman passes debris, after an airstrike, in Sadr City, Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, March 29, 2008. AP

BAGHDAD (AP)—A U.S. warplane strafed snipers in the southern city of Basra, killing at least 16 suspected militants after Iraqi troops came under heavy fire, the American military said.

Iraqi police earlier claimed eight civilians, including two women and a child, had been killed in a predawn airstrike in the Hananiyah neighborhood, a known Shiite militia stronghold.

But Maj. Brad Leighton, a U.S. military spokesman, said U.S. and Iraqi special operations

forces had identified snipers on several roofs before the strike was ordered.

An AC-130 gunship then opened fire on enemy positions on three roofs.

"Initial reports indicate 16 criminal fighters were killed," he said in an e-mail response to a query by The Associated Press.

The American support occurred as Iraqi troops struggled against strong resistance from militia fighters in Basra, where Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki

has vowed to keep up the fight despite mounting anger among followers of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

The government crackdown has prompted retaliation elsewhere in Shiite areas in Baghdad and other cities in the oil-rich south.

American jets were first called to attack militia positions in Basra on Friday, four days after al-Maliki launched the operation to clear the city of militia violence.

The airstrike followed fierce

clashes between the Iraqi security forces and Shiite militiamen, Leighton said in the first confirmation of the airstrikes by the U.S. military.

Iraqi ground forces also killed four suspected militants after coming under unrelenting fire by small arms and rocket-propelled grenades during a raid in a known criminal stronghold in western Basra, Leighton said.

Two women and five children were found unharmed in the targeted building, according to the statement. It added that two more extremists were killed after the Iraqi troops came under attack again from surrounding buildings.

During the gunbattle, Iraqi commandos "and a supporting U.S. special forces team identified additional armed criminal elements on several rooftops in the area," and called in the airstrike, Leighton said.

U.S. jets also dropped two precision-guided bombs later Saturday on a suspected militia stronghold at Qarmat Ali north of the city, British military spokesman Maj. Tom Holloway said.

"My understanding was that this was a building that had people who were shooting back at Iraqi ground forces," Holloway said.

Leighton said he had no further information on that airstrike.

Olympic torch reaches Acropolis

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Torchbearers carried the Olympic flame through the crowded streets of Athens to the Acropolis Saturday amid heavy security and demonstrations by small groups of protesters.

At the foot of the Acropolis, a pro-Tibet group unfurled a banner reading "Free Tibet 2008" and lit candles to protest China's deadly crackdown there.

"We don't want the torch relay to pass through Tibet," said one protester who identified herself only as Klara.

Earlier, police briefly scuffled with a group of anti-globalization demonstrators shortly after the torch relay entered the city.

The relay was not disrupted by either protest and no arrests were reported.

More than 2,000 police officers were deployed in Athens for the relay. A helicopter flew overhead and about a dozen plainclothes officers on motorcycles flanked the torchbearers.

Thousands of people gathered along the route to watch as the runners - including Athens Mayor Nikitas Kaklamanis - ran through streets lined with the Chinese, Greek and Olympic flags.

Organizers had made last-minute changes to the torch route to prevent protests against China's human rights record

from disrupting the event.

The torch will be handed over to Beijing officials on Sunday at the restored ancient stadium where the first modern Olympics were held in 1896.

China's crackdown on anti-government protests in Tibet more than two weeks ago has prompted protests in several countries, and campaigners have pledged to demonstrate throughout the 85,100-mile global torch relay.

The flame was lit five days ago at Ancient Olympia, birthplace of the ancient games, and will be handed over to Beijing 2008 organizers Sunday after its overnight stop on the 2,500-year-old Acropolis.

At Monday's lighting ceremony, French campaigners protesting China's human rights record dodged tight security to display black flags with handcuffs replacing the Olympic rings. Pro-Tibetan demonstrators briefly stopped the relay later that day.

Greek and Chinese Olympic officials condemned the protests.

"We are here to celebrate the Olympic spirit, not to enter political debate," said Wang Wei, executive vice president of the Beijing organizing committee.

Hellenic Olympic Committee president Minos Kyriakou said the protests were from a "super, super minority."

Cities switch off their lights for Earth Hour

CHICAGO (AP)—From the Sydney Opera House to Rome's Colosseum to the Sears Tower's famous antennas in Chicago, floodlit icons of civilization went dark Saturday for Earth Hour, a worldwide campaign to highlight the threat of climate change.

The environmental group WWF urged governments, businesses and households to turn back to candle power for at least 60 minutes starting at 8 p.m. wherever they were.

The campaign began last year in Australia, and traveled this year from the South Pacific to Europe to North America in cadence with the setting of the sun.

"What's amazing is that it's transcending political boundaries and happening in places like China, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea," said Andy Ridley, executive director of Earth Hour. "It really seems to have resonated with anybody and everybody."

Earth Hour officials hoped 100 million people would turn off their nonessential lights and electronic goods for the hour. Electricity plants produce greenhouse gases that fuel climate change.

In Chicago, lights on more than 200 downtown buildings were dimmed Saturday night, including the stripe of white



The Sears Tower, second from left, leads the way by dimming the tower lights during the World Wildlife Fund's Earth Hour event in Chicago, Saturday, March 29, 2008. AP

light around the top of the John Hancock Center. The red-and-white marquee outside Wrigley Field also went dark.

"There's a widespread belief that somehow people in the United States don't understand that this is a problem that we're lazy and wedded to our lifestyles. (Earth Hour) demonstrates that that is wrong," Richard Moss, a member of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the climate change vice president for WWF, said in Chicago on Saturday.

Workers in Phoenix turned out the lights in all downtown city-owned buildings for one hour. Darkened restaurants glowed with candlelight in San Francisco while the Golden Gate Bridge, Coit Tower and other landmarks extinguished lights for an hour.

New Zealand and Fiji were first out of the starting blocks this year. And in Sydney, Australia—where an estimated 2.2 million observed the blackout last year—the city's two architectural icons, the Opera House and Harbour Bridge, faded to

black against a dramatic backdrop of a lightning storm.

Lights also went out at the famed Wat Arun Buddhist temple in Bangkok, Thailand; shopping and cultural centers in Manila, Philippines; several castles in Sweden and Denmark; the parliament building in Budapest, Hungary; a string of landmarks in Warsaw, Poland; and both London City Hall and Canterbury Cathedral in England.

Greece, an hour ahead of most of Europe, was the first on the continent to mark Earth Hour. On the isle of Aegina, near Athens, much of its population marched by candlelight to the port. Parts of Athens itself, including the floodlit city hall, also turned to black.

In Ireland, where environmentalists are part of the coalition government, lights-out orders went out for scores of government buildings, bridges and monuments in more than a dozen cities and towns.

Health & Fitness

Sleep loss remains part of the practice

By SHARI ROAN
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Even with sleep increasingly recognized as an important determinant of health, some doctors might resist the evidence. From working round-the-clock shifts during residency to on-call nights to early morning rounds, they're sleep-deprived—and proud of it.

"Organized medicine and the professional medical societies are sanctioning 100,000 people a year to working 30-hour shifts twice a week during their medical education," says Dr. Charles Czeisler, director of the division of sleep medicine at Harvard Medical School.

"That gives you some sense of where we're at with this," he says. "Physicians are being taught in training that this is OK. We have this attitude of machismo in relation to sleep loss."

Doctors should care more about sleep—for their own sake

as well as their patients, says Eve Van Cauter, a professor of medicine at the University of Chicago. "The medical school curriculum involves very little education to future physicians about sleep," she says. "But it could be that if sleep is overlooked, other problems could

be too."

The medical profession has become more sensitive to the exhaustion of interns. In 2003, residents' work hours were limited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education to 80 hours per week in the hopes of reducing

doctor errors. But some studies suggest the policy has had little effect. Beginning in Au-

gust, residents in Europe will be limited to workweeks of no more than 48 hours.

"Maybe 80 hours is just too much. Maybe it should be 60 or 40 hours," says Dr. John Wachtel, chairman of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' Committee on Patient Safety and Quality Improvement and a clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Stanford University.

In recommendations released in February, the committee advised obstetricians and gynecologists to try to avoid working between 3 a.m. and 5 a.m. or caring for patients while fatigued.

But until science comes up with a quantitative method for measuring fatigue, Wachtel says, the medical profession might be reluctant to say just how much sleep is too little—for them or their patients.

How to cope with shift work

By SHARI ROAN
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Sleep experts suggest various ways to cope with unusual work and sleep schedules.

■ **Regular hours:** Keep the same sleep schedule on days off from work.

■ **Strategic napping:** Studies show naps of 20 minutes to two hours—either just before a shift or during a shift—can improve alertness and performance at work.

■ **Bright light:** Exposure to bright lights during the first half of a shift may help fight fatigue

later in the shift.

■ **Light restriction:** Avoiding bright lights in the morning (such as by wearing sunglasses on the way home and sleeping in a very dark room) can help night-shift workers sleep better during the day.

■ **Melatonin:** Supplements can promote daytime sleep when taken an hour or two before bedtime.

■ **Modafinil:** This medication, brand name Provigil, was approved in 2004 for the treatment of shift-related sleep disorder. Taken just before a shift, it can enhance alertness at night, studies have shown.

■ **Caffeine:** Caffeine has been shown to counteract drops in performance levels at night.

Sources: Dr. Diane Boivin; American Academy of Sleep Medicine.

A right time for everything

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

In the future, research may reveal an optimal time of day to take pills, have surgery or undergo chemotherapy.

This strategy, called chronotherapy, is in its infancy, but the evidence for it is growing. Studies suggest that certain types of chemotherapy should be given in the morning or evening; kidney dialysis patients tend to fare better if they receive their treatment in the morning; and certain blood pressure medicines work better in the morning and others at night.

A prescription for a good night's sleep may accompany chronotherapy practices.

Adequate sleep seems to affect the body's immune response. In a small study published in 2002 in the Journal of the American Medical Association, sleep researcher Eve Van Cauter found that flu shots might not work as well in people who are tired. She gave flu shots to 11 healthy young men who had slept four hours a night for four straight nights. The men produced only half as many flu-fighting antibodies compared with people who slept normally before receiving the shot.



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Registered nurse Liberty Bunag relies on coffee, caffeinated soda and rice to get through 12-hour overnight shifts at White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Is lack of sleep bad for the brain?

By SHARI ROAN
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Both night-shift work and chronic sleep deprivation increasingly are implicated in mental and cognitive problems.

ALZHEIMER'S RISK

Abnormal insulin levels (common in shift workers and sleep-deprived people) might increase the risk for certain neurodegenerative disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease, scientists at the University of Washington have found. Normally, insulin acts on the brain to promote learning and memory. Insulin resistance, however, might cause inflammation in the brain, a key process in the development of Alzheimer's.

LEARNING

The eat-sleep connection

By Shari Roan
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Food intake can affect body clocks—and vice versa. The movement of glucose and nutrients through the bloodstream to organs affects appetite, digestion and metabolism. Travelers frequently encounter stomach and digestive difficulties when crossing time zones, for example, because food intake is in conflict with the timekeeping molecules in the body's digestive system.

"When you're a shift worker and displace your sleep, you also displace your feeding schedule," says sleep researcher Eve Van Cauter, a professor of medicine at the University of Chicago. The liver, pancreas and digestive system are not expecting food at the time that

Proper alignment between sleep times and internal circadian time is crucial for optimal cognitive performance. And numerous recent studies show learning is enhanced if it's followed by restorative sleep. In other words, students who pull all-nighters studying for an exam are doing themselves more harm than good.

MOOD

Even moderate changes in sleep times can have a big effect on mood. Diane Boivin of the Centre for Study and Treatment of Circadian Rhythms at Douglas Mental Health University Institute in Montreal published research last year in the journal Sleep showing that serotonin levels—a key substance for mood stability—are lower in

shift workers than day workers. Other studies have found that exposure to bright light in the morning can lift the moods of people with depression, and that prescribed periods of sleep deprivation can interrupt a bout of depression.

BIPOLAR DISORDER

Flawed circadian rhythms might be to blame for bipolar disorder. In a study published last year in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, scientists from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center identified a gene that, if disrupted, causes mice to behave as if they have bipolar disorder. Correcting the gene mutation could lead to a therapy for the illness, the scientists said.

FROM START TO FITNESS

Is morning the best time to exercise?

By ANDREA RENEE WYATT, M.S.S., C.S.C.S.
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Is one time of day better than another to exercise? I've heard that to burn more calories it is better to exercise in the morning than in the afternoon or evening. Is this correct? Does it really matter what time of day I exercise?

A: The easy answer to this question is that your calorie expenditure has more to do with the level of your heart rate throughout the time you exercise, rather than the time of the day you exercise.

If you complete 45 minutes on the treadmill at 7 a.m. and keep your heart rate at around 150 beats per minute and burn 300 calories, you will burn the same amount of calories completing the exact same workout at 7 p.m.

The popular fitness myth that it's better to exercise in the morning came about because of the notion that you can burn more fat in the morning than in the evening. The argument goes that doing cardiovascular exercise the first thing in the morning without eating and after a full night's sleep will enable you to utilize a higher percentage of fat as a source of fuel.

Although this may happen to some extent, I would not base my workout schedule or routine on this idea. I would focus more on completing an exercise program and maintaining an intensity that will give you the most efficient calorie expenditure.

One of the first questions I have to ask is if you currently exercise at ALL? If not, then the first priority is to develop a well-balanced, safe, realistic and effective exercise routine that you can complete consistently. If you ARE currently participating in a workout routine, then you must determine when during the day you have the time and energy to exercise.

Some people enjoy exercising the first thing in the morning or before work because they can get it "out of the way," while others prefer to exercise once their day is complete as a means to relax and possibly socialize. The best time of the day to exercise is truly when you commit to it.

Try exercising at different times of day, and find a time when you feel comfortable, have the energy to complete your workout and can still function throughout the remainder of your day or night. Everyone is different, so find the best time for YOU, and commit to consistently completing your exercise program.

Always consult a physician before beginning an exercise program. If you have a fitness or training question, write to Andrea in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

tive nights and were found to have blood test results for insulin sensitivity so abnormal that they almost matched those of diabetics.

Other research is exploring effects of sleep and shift work on neurotransmitters called orexins. These brain chemicals make sure humans are alert when hungry to maximize food-seeking behavior.

After a big meal, fast-rising glucose levels in the body switch off orexin neurons, often making people feel sleepy—possibly an evolutionary response signaling humans to conserve energy after eating. "There is wiring in our brains that links feeding and being awake," Van Cauter says.

Thus, eating at midnight and sleeping at noon could lay the groundwork for obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

1st Let Freedom Sing Festival



Shunsuke Katagiri, expert noodle-maker and Okada Corp. operations manager, demonstrates how to make Japanese hand made noodle (soba) during the 2008 Let Freedom Sing Festival, held at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Saturday and Sunday. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Members of the Inatuas Cultural Dance Group show their appreciation to the crowd. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Daisy Demapan learns how to make a Carolinian mwar-mwar from Maria Olopai. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Rey Crisostomo, an expert fisherman, teaches his uncle Gonzalo Pangelinan the basic techniques of using a talaya or the traditional Chamorro fishing net during the festival. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Master weaver Antonia L. Igisaia demonstrates how to make a TER or the Micronesian traditional skirt. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Members of the Inatuas Cultural Dance Group entertain the audience with traditional dance performances. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Members of the Saipan Kendo Club demonstrate their skills during the festival. Kendo is a Japanese martial art where each person is equipped with traditional "kendo-gi" and a bamboo sword. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Artist Linda Birmingham teaches children how to transform a simple coconut into a work of art. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Cas Igisaia demonstrates the proper way of making coconut oil.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Famous sand painter from Rota, Albert S. Toves, shows off his creative skills during the event.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Local artist Daniel Babauta carves a coconut husk during the Let Freedom Sing Festival, held over the weekend at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Children learn the art of Origami making.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Northern Marianas College Cultural Club practice their song presentation.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Rey Crisostomo demonstrates how to launch a talaya or the traditional Chamorro fishing net during the 2008 Let Freedom Sing Festival at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Sunday. The two-day festival showcased live performances of ethnic songs and demonstrations of cultural practices and traditions.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Monica Mangarero and daughter Tjaden demonstrate Carolinian beadwork.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Kagman Elementary School teachers Hellena Jebehn and Juvy Taitano with banana art painting on their faces.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Life & Style

Cyrus is Kids Choice winner—twice

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- It was the best of both worlds at Saturday's Kids Choice Awards for Miley Cyrus, who took home trophies for favorite female singer and TV actress and rocked the show with a spirited performance of her hit song, "GNO—Girls Night Out."

It was also a slime spectacle for the Nickelodeon children's television network, which broadcast the 21st annual show live from UCLA's Pauley Pavilion in front of 10,000 screaming fans, almost all of them teens and preteens.

Akon crashed a dune buggy into giant containers of Nickelodeon's trademark green slime, Usher blasted a sumo wrestler several yards with slime fired from a cannon and supermodel Heidi Klum, attached to a bungee cord and wearing a specially equipped "butt spike belt," flung herself into a wall covered with slime-filled balloons.

"Don't try this at home," boxer Laila Ali said as Usher turned the cannon on the sumo wrestler.

The slime stunts and other assorted foolishness—which included a soundtrack of celebrities burping as an instrumental version of the Village People song "YMCA" played in the background—took up so much time that presenters never got around to announcing three awards.

In the categories that were announced, teen heartthrob Drake Bell was another double winner, collecting his third consecutive orange blimp-shaped trophy for favorite TV actor and another for favorite TV show for "Drake and Josh."

"Drake and Josh" upset Cyrus' hit program "Hannah Montana" in the TV show category.

Other winners were Eddie Murphy for favorite voice from



Miley Ray Cyrus arrives at the 21st Annual Kids' Choice Awards in Los Angeles, on Saturday, March 29, 2008.

an animated movie for "Shrek the Third," "American Idol" for favorite reality show and, one of the biggest crowd favorites of the night, the Jonas Brothers for favorite music group. The ever-polite Jonas Brothers each offered brief thank-yous. Chris Brown won for favorite male singer.

Ryan Seacrest accepted the reality show award saying he

looked forward to presenting it to "two of the three" of the show's judges.

Cyrus, in a black dress with silver spangles, thanked several people, including her mother, father, agent, manager "and my lord and savior Jesus Christ."

She returned a few minutes later to perform her song, and had a camera crew scampering to get out of the way when she

charged into the audience, microphone in hand.

The Naked Brothers Band also performed a song from their forthcoming album "I Don't Want To Go To School."

Cameron Diaz injected one serious moment into the 90-minute show when she accepted a silver blimp as this year's Wannabe Award winner, for the person kids most want to be like. After a montage of clips from both her movies and her efforts on behalf of environmentalism was shown, she encouraged the crowd to do their part to protect the planet.

"You're going to change the world. Every one of you kids is the future," she told the audience. "Everybody go out and make the world a better place."

Diaz, who was the first ever Kids Choice Awards burping contest winner, has long said that was the favorite of all her awards. She said this one trumped it.

Jason Lee accepted the favorite movie award for "Alvin and the Chipmunks" and said it was one of his biggest thrills.

"I'm going to hang this from the ceiling because it's the greatest award anyone could receive because it was voted on by the kids," he said as he held his blimp.

Awards are voted on by people who cast their ballots at Nickelodeon's Web site, with voting continuing until the day of the show.

The show's host, Jack Black, announced that 88 million votes were cast this year, more than twice last year's record number of 40 million.

The show concluded with Black and Orlando Bloom sitting in chairs high above the audience being drenched with what Black claimed was 27 million gallons of green slime.

Emilio Navaira's brother recalls crash

HOUSTON (AP)—Raul Navaira remembers seeing his brother, the Tejano music star known to his fans simply as Emilio, signing autographs after an Easter weekend club date in Houston.

Raul Navaira climbed aboard the tour bus that Emilio routinely drove and went to sleep for the 200-mile trip home to San Antonio.

"It was like any other night," Raul Navaira, 40, said Wednesday.

Except it wasn't. "The next thing I knew, I felt stuff falling over me," he said.

At about 5 a.m. Sunday, the 26,000-pound motor coach slammed into a collection of

freeway barrels that mark the interchange of two highways in Bellaire, a southwest Houston enclave. Emilio was thrown through the windshield, injuring him severely and requiring two brain surgeries, the most recent on Tuesday evening.

The 45-year-old father of five and Grammy winner is fighting for his life.

"It was weird," his brother said. "Right away. I thought of him. I knew he was driving. I go: 'Emilio, you OK?' I heard a 'Yeh, yeh,' but it actually was our drummer beneath the rubble."

He said by the time he made his way out of the bus, paramedics had strapped his brother to a gurney to take him to the hospital.

"They didn't let me get to him," Raul Navaira said. "I just shouted out that I loved him. ... Maybe I was in a daze. By the time I got out of the bus, everybody was there and helping."

Doctors worried about the condition of Emilio Navaira took him into surgery a second time Tuesday, after medication failed to lower pressure that began to build in his brain around

a bruise where they removed a blood clot two days earlier.

"We all agreed it was heading in a negative direction and we thought we'd intervene before it got to a critical point," said Dr. Alex Valadka, director of neurotrauma services at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center and vice chairman of neurosciences at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

He said he reopened an incision made during Navaira's initial surgery Sunday and removed a piece of bone that had been taken out and put back following that first operation.

"After the surgery, the pressures in the brain were lower and Emilio tolerated the surgery fine without any problems or complications," Valadka said.

He said Navaira remained in critical condition but described him as improved and "perhaps better off than he was a few days ago."

"He is still in a coma," Valadka said. "We are still giving him some medication so it's difficult to say at this point how much is from the severity of his injury and how much is the medication. If he continues to remain stable, we'll gradually try to cut back some of the medication."

Recovery could take months. "The general pattern with someone with injuries of his severity, you think of prolonged recovery, rehabilitation and a lot of therapy," he said.

The wreck remains under investigation. Several members of Navaira's band, including Raul, came away with less serious injuries. Raul had a black eye Wednesday and said he had scrapes and bruises and a sprained ankle but was otherwise well.



Navaira

Ricky Martin visits Cambodian center

SIEM REAP, Cambodia (AP) -- Ricky Martin met with victims of sexual exploitation Saturday during a visit to Cambodia to promote the fight against human trafficking.

Martin held infants and listened to a 14-year-old rape victim's song during his visit to a shelter in the northwestern city of Siem Reap, home of the famed Angkor temples.

"She sings like an angel," Martin said after the girl finished a song she composed about the plight of trafficking victims.

The girl was among 65 victims sheltered at the rescue center of Afe-sip, a French non-governmental group working to combat human trafficking in Cambodia.

The pop star also held the 3-month-old daughter of a 22-year-old woman who was sold by her father to a brothel and is now HIV-positive. The woman broke down in tears as she urged Martin to keep fighting against human trafficking.

"I'm not going to stop," Martin said, pounding his fist on his knee as he sat on a tiled floor. "All of you are my heroes. You are a gift of my life."

Martin, who arrived in the country Wednesday, met with Interior Minister Sar Kheng and visited various projects run by non-governmental organizations fighting child trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Martin learned of Cambodia's child trafficking problems in February during a three-day U.N. conference in Vienna. He joined Oscar-winning actress Emma Thompson, Egyptian first lady Suzanne Mubarak and other dignitaries in calling for action.

In its annual human rights report released recently, the U.S. State Department called Cambodia "a source, destination and transit country for men, women, and children trafficked for sexual exploitation and labor."

Still, Martin praised Cambodia as an example of some "solid and concrete" efforts against human trafficking.

"The fact that you have 200 non-governmental groups working in the country working on human trafficking is unheard of," he said.

Martin said he plans to take what he learned in Cambodia and use it to "motivate people, organizations, governments in Latin America" in their efforts to combat the same problems. The Ricky Martin Foundation does most of its work in Latin America.

Martin was due to leave Cambodia on Sunday.



Puerto Rican singer Ricky Martin holds babies during a visit to a shelter for victims of sexual exploitation in Siem Reap northwestern province of Cambodia, Saturday, March 29, 2008.

Clancy's home damaged by fire

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. (AP)—A fire damaged the second-floor deck of Tom Clancy's home on Saturday, the Maryland fire marshal's office said.

Clancy was home at the time, but was not injured in the noon blaze, fire marshal's spokesman Joe Zurolo said.

"The smoke alarms are what alerted him to the fact there was a fire," Zurolo said.

The cause of the fire, which caused about \$10,000 in damage to the rear of the three-story

stone home, has not been determined, Zurolo said.

About 50 firefighters battled the blaze for about 10 minutes before bringing it under control. No injuries were reported, the spokesman said.

The home is located on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay about 30 miles southeast of Washington.

Clancy is the author of thrillers including "The Hunt for Red October," "Patriot Games," and "Clear and Present Danger."



AP
Author Tom Clancy, the hawkish master of military thrillers, gestures during an interview in this Monday, May 24, 2004, file photo in New York.

Rev. Jerry Falwell's widow writes book

LYNCHBURG, Va. (AP) -- The wife of the late Rev. Jerry Falwell has written a book recounting the half-century she spent with the Moral Majority founder.

Macel (MAY'sell) Falwell's book, "Jerry Falwell: His Life and Legacy," is set for release on May 15 - the first anniversary of Falwell's death at age 73.

Macel Falwell told The News & Advance of Lynchburg she has been working on the book

since September.

Jonathan Falwell describes his mother as a "behind-the-scenes person." He says her book will relate her experiences with his father and tell of the founding of Thomas Road Baptist Church.

The book is being published through Howard Books, which said it will include insight into Falwell's often controversial statements and his relationship with Ronald Reagan.



Nelly wants Springsteen collaboration

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nelly is bummed he wasn't able to collaborate with Bruce Springsteen on his new album.

"I was really trying to get The Boss, but The Boss is all over the world," Nelly told The Associated Press on the orange carpet at Saturday's Kids Choice Awards. "It didn't really work out. I know he's interested in doing it. And I'm interested in doing it."

Nelly was mum on what a duet with Springsteen would've sounded like, but the "Hot In Herre" rapper is hopeful he'll

be able to work with the "Born to Run" rock and roller later this year.

"We still might get a chance to get it off," Nelly said. "We're saving it. We might repackage it for the holidays."

The 33-year-old rapper from St. Louis last formed an unlikely union in 2004 when he teamed up with country star Tim McGraw for the song "Over and Over" from Nelly's album "Suit."

"Brass Knuckles," Nelly's fifth album set for release in June, won't be lacking in names. Akon, Ashanti, Chuck D, Ciara, LL Cool J, Lil Wayne, Pimp C, Snoop Dogg and T.I. are all set to appear. "Party People," the first single off the album, features Fergie.

AP
Nelly arrives at the 21st Annual Kids' Choice Awards in Los Angeles, on Saturday, March 29, 2008.

Metropolitan Opera honors Franco Zeffirelli

NEW YORK (AP) -- Franco Zeffirelli, who has directed film, theater and opera worldwide, is being honored this weekend for the dozen lavish productions he created for the Metropolitan Opera.

Three are being performed this season, including "La Boheme," which was opening Saturday night on the stage where the Italian made his Met directorial debut in 1964 with a production of Verdi's "Falstaff."

Between acts at Saturday's performance, the opera house was to honor Zeffirelli onstage.

On Monday, stars from Zeffirelli's film and stage productions will attend a Metropolitan Opera Guild luncheon at Manhattan's Waldorf-Astoria hotel.

Soprano Angela Gheorghiu - who sings in the current "Boheme" - and Jeremy Irons will offer musical and spoken tributes for an audience that will include actors Lynn Redgrave and Eli Wallach, Met General Manager Peter Gelb, tenor Marcello Giordani, baritone Thomas Hampson, sopranos Patricia Racette and Kiri Te Kanawa, cabaret legend Barbara Cook, designer Oscar de la Renta, and Cardinal Edward Egan, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York.

While "wandering the world," as he puts

it, Zeffirelli is also helping compile two books - one on his life's work in opera and cinema, the other his Met productions.

"I have always been full of doubts," said the Florence-born Zeffirelli, adding with a chuckle: "But in the end, I have to agree that I'm quite a good director."

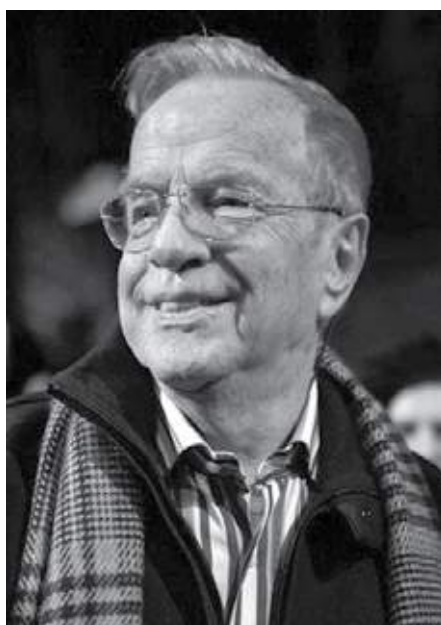
Four decades after he filled the world's movie screens and fans' hearts with "Romeo and Juliet," he's still signing autographs for the Oscar-winning film.

Theaters across the country are celebrating the 40th anniversary of what fans have dubbed "R&J" with special showings, and Zeffirelli is happy to scribble his name on DVDs.

Zeffirelli says the "Romeo and Juliet" story is never outdated.

"Honestly, in the heart of hearts of adolescents today, there is the same desire to live an adventure of this same intensity," he told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "The film is only the carrier of this eternal love story. There is no other story that is so perfectly engineered and resounds so promptly with the affairs of the heart."

At his villa outside Rome, Zeffirelli still receives letters about the film from new and very young fans.



AP
Franco Zeffirelli, Italian director and producer of films and opera, appear on stage during the dress rehearsal of the opera "La Boheme" at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, in this March 27, 2008 file photo.

"I identify completely with American kids today," he says. "Like me, they are comfortable with what's stimulating in life - in everything."

Girl with her own bedroom is bunking with dad instead

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating "Jim," a single father of an 18-year-old son and a 13-year-old daughter, "Jenna." The girl is very close to her parents to the point that she sleeps with them. On nights she's with Jim, she shares a bed with him. Jim and his ex have been divorced since Jenna was 2. She shared their bed while they were married.

I no longer bring up the subject. I guess you could say Jim and I have agreed to disagree. However, I don't think a 13-year-old girl should be sharing a bed with her father. To put it bluntly, it gives me the creeps.

Jenna also shares her father's master bedroom and closet with him as if she were his wife. Please understand, this girl has a lavish bathroom of her own connected to a princess-style bedroom that contains everything a girl could ever wish for. Space is not the problem. When she visits, she never sets foot in her own room or bathroom.

I haven't said anything to Jenna because I don't want to upset her, but I think it's inappropriate for Jim to continue allowing her to sleep with him. Should I let it go? I have voiced my opinion before, and it has caused several heated arguments. What are your thoughts on this?

SLEEPING WITH ONE EYE OPEN IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR SLEEPING: Although it is common for some parents to share their bed with infants or toddlers, it is far less so for a father and his teenage daughter. Jenna is no longer a child, and frankly, to continue this practice is inappropriate and potentially stimulating for both of them.

Clip this column and share it with Jim. Perhaps it will help him to rethink his stance on this.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I consider myself a relatively "normal" female. Although I'm a little reserved, I can usually open up to new people. But I have one problem I'm afraid will cripple my chances in dating—talking on the phone. My mind goes completely blank, and those terrible, awkward silences slowly stretch.

In person, I can read expressions, and it's easier for me to communicate. But in this day and age we exchange phone numbers first, and then—maybe—date. However, before we even have a chance to sit face-to-face, I'm discounted.

Please help me. Is there any way I can be a better conversationalist on the phone so I don't wind up an old maid?

PHONE-PHOBIC IN TOPEKA

DEAR PHONE-PHOBIC: Not everyone is comfortable making small talk on the phone. Instead of trying to fill up the "empty space" with prattle, why not be up front about it? When someone you have given your phone number to calls, talk for a few minutes, then say: "You know, I hate talking on the phone. Let's meet for a cup of coffee." That way you can put your best foot forward and show your attributes to greater advantage.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: How old do I have to be before I can begin telling my relatives exactly what I think of them? I am sick and tired of being polite to these low-lives! I want to give them a piece of my mind before I leave this Earth. I am presently 67 years old.

BITING TONGUE IN ZEPHYRHILLS, FLA.

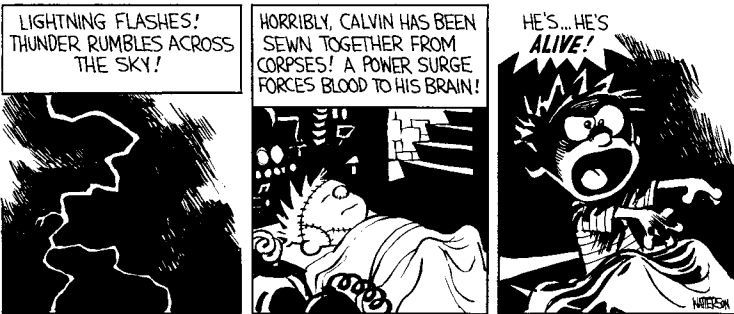
DEAR BITING: I don't know how old your relatives are, but if they're older than you are, you had better hurry.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

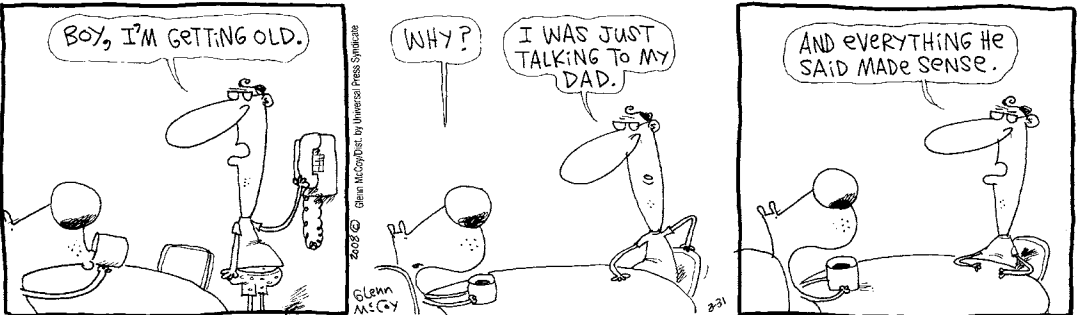
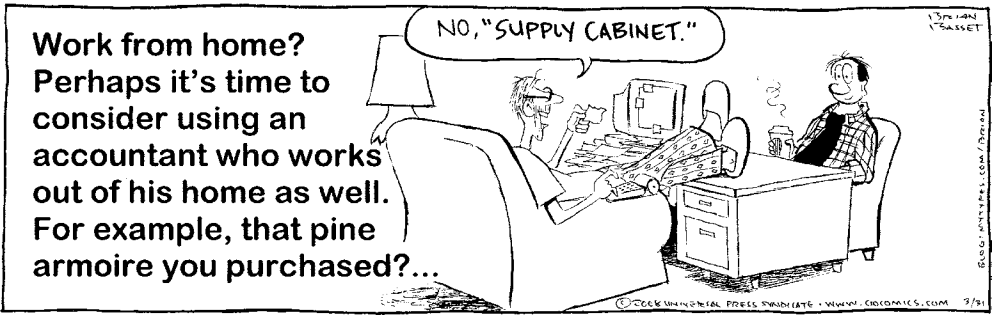


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Drag behind

4 "Most Wanted" org.

7 Detergent

11 October stone

13 Used a shovel

14 Angel's light

15 Start from scratch

16 Every last bit

17 Verbal

18 Frosting

20 Physicist

22 Jewel

24 Nicara-guan leader

28 Makes a mess of

32 Ort

33 Needle case

34 Earl Grey, for one

36 Capri or Wight

37 Slip

DOWN

19 Solidify

21 Storefront sign abbr.

23 Encoun-tered

25 Formerly, formerly

26 Big windstorm

27 Mimicked

28 Dissolve

29 Hexag-onal

30 Put one over on

31 Witness

35 Big hatchet

38 Consume

40 Biblical verb

42 Water-logged

45 Grimace

47 Castle protection

48 Desire

49 Calendar information

50 Recede

51 Will Smith biopic

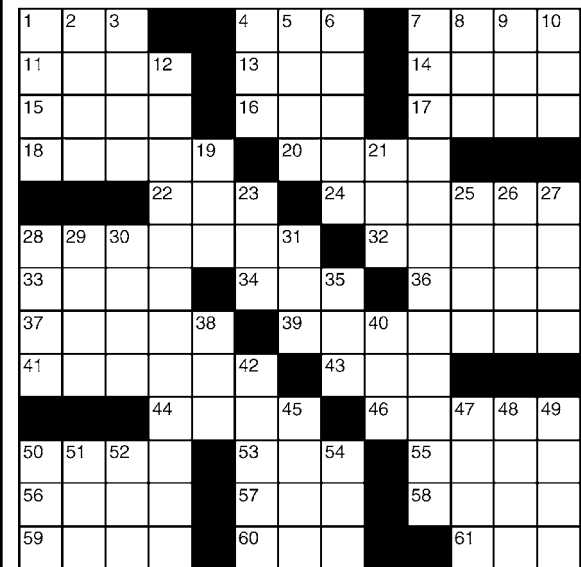
52 Scepter

54 Dynamite abbr.

Solution time: 24 mins.

F	U	R	O	R	A	F	T	E	R
S	E	V	E	R	E	L	E	W	D
C	L	U	T	C	H	C	R	O	U
A	L	L	A	A	R	O	N	C	U
L	O	A	D	B	A	H	M	E	S
D	W	E	E	B	P	O	M	A	D
N	I	B	L	O	M				
B	E	D	I	Z	E	N	B	A	G
E	X	A	M	L	I	M	S	A	R
A	I	L	A	L	L	I	S	R	I
C	L	E	N	C	H	C	H	U	R
H	E	T	E	R	O	R	E	P	E
S	H	E	E	P	O	A	S	T	S

Saturday's answer 3-31



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Pavel Bure, 37; Ewan McGregor, 37; Rhea Perlman, 60; Christopher Walken, 65

Happy Birthday: Check out all the possibilities rather than assuming everything will go according to your plans this year. You are likely to overreact if you aren't prepared. Oversee everything. Detail and precision will be key to your success. Your numbers are 2, 10, 26, 29, 35, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Settle down and let everyone else take care of things for a change. You need to break away from the stress and give yourself a chance to reclaim what's really important to you. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You have the right idea and will certainly be able to convince others that you know what you are doing. Take care of any matters that require dealing with banks, institutions or government agencies. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can pick up valuable information that will allow you to help someone from whom you need a favor. Make a change at home and you will rid yourself of some of the tension you've been facing. An older individual will reveal some family background. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take a dynamic approach to whatever you do and you will excel. Be a little unique, bold and no-nonsense and you will capture the attention of someone who will support what you are doing. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Emotional matters are

likely to escalate. A business trip will lead to an interesting meeting with someone who can help you see and do things a little differently. An offer regarding your vocation and what you want to pursue is heading in your direction. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get your chores out of the way so you are free and clear to enjoy friends, family or someone you love. A love connection can be made if you are single or a commitment made from the heart to someone you are already involved with. Be a participant. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): So much of what you do will depend on how you treat the people close to you. If you have been overreacting, expect to apologize but, if you have been helpful and understanding, expect a pleasant surprise. Don't mix business with pleasure. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't take anything or anyone for granted. You will not get the respect or the help you require even if you ask for it. Do the work yourself and you will have no regrets or apologies to make. Someone is probably withholding information. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Hard work and dedication will pay off and will keep you too busy to get into trouble on a personal level. Someone you are involved with will be sizing up his or her situation. You may want to distance yourself. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be the driving force behind what

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



gets done. Your outgoing nature and your big ideas will take you over the top and on to massive projects. An emotional encounter will prove beneficial in the end. ***

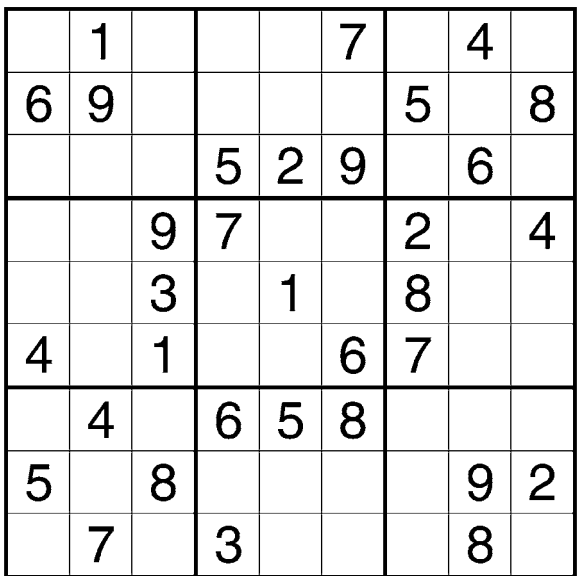
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Hidden matters will lead to trouble. Try to keep everything out in the open so you aren't blamed for something that is not your fault. A partnership can take a turn that will lead to greater security if you are honest. Share how you see things unfolding. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can gain ground by the way you handle situations today. You will be able to make professional headway by making a few alterations to your resume. A change at home will allow you to make extra cash doing something that is second nature to you. ****

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive and caring. You are strong, steadfast and determined. You aren't afraid to pitch in and help or to ask for assistance. Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

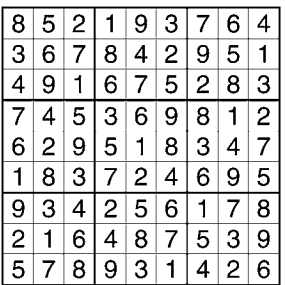
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★ 3/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 3/29

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CORDLESS MOUSE Solution: 5 letters



© 2008 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 3/31
Adjust, Buttons, Cursor, Defuses, Desk, Device, Download, Drop, Easy, Electronics, Fingers, Games, Guide, Hand, Input, Keyboard, Launch, Left, Lights, Mini, Models, Motion, Mouse, Move, Notebook, Paste, Plugs, Power, Programs, Refresh, Revolution, Right, Save, Screen, Scroll, Select, Sensor, Signal, Size, Software, Systems, User, Versatile, Wireless
Last Saturday's Answer: Bleachers
To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 16, 22, 23, 24, 25 or 26, send \$5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus \$3 postage for the first book order, \$1 p/h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-4734, ext. 9688. Order online at upuzzles.com. (Contains 43 puzzles, 9 of which are the larger, 20 x 20 size)

CLASSIFIED ADS



FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished
1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month,
near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

WHATZIT Solution:
History repeats itself

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**1 WAREHOUSE WORKER
(MANAGER) (SM 0058)**
Salary:\$6.35/hour. Benefits: Free
housing if no A/C; medical insurance;
vacation leave & worker's compensa-
tion. Contact: Triple J Five Star Whole-
sale Foods, Inc. @322-6502.

**WE WANT TO BUY A HOUSE
AND LOT OR WAREHOUSE.
ANY INTERESTED PARTIES
PLEASE CALL 235-4928.**

FOR RENT
ONE BR. APT. NEAR MHS, in a quiet,
secure area behind Calvo's Market, off
Texas Rd. 24hrs. govt. & rain water. Fully
air conditioned with dresser and walk in
closets. All rooms have ceiling fans. Fully
furnished along with its own washing
machine, \$425. Call Ed at 235-0409.

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure
without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete
7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per
3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto
and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits
your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues
in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that
include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the
same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publica-
tion date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will
come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come
out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be pub-
lished on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to
date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to
date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No
refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day
of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue
date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper
headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate
sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales
Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads
will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the
right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan
Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and
to revise copy when necessary.



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO. 2008-CDA-03-ITB**



OPENING DATE: Tuesday, April 29, 2008 • TIME: 10:00 a.m.

“OFFICE SPACE FOR CDA TINIAN BRANCH”

COPIES OF THE BID SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY SAIPAN OFFICE,
GUALO RAI WAKIN'S BLDG. OR THE CDA OFFICE TINIAN AT THE KING'S
BLDG. DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FACSIMILE
REQUEST TO 235-7147.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT
RESIDENTS AS PER PL15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PL15-118
AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS
CLAIMED.

/s/ OSCAR C. CAMACHO /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Acting CEO Director, P&S



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
**NORTHERN MARIANAS
HOUSING CORPORATION**
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670
Fax. (670) 234-9021 • Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the Northern Marianas Housing
Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman of the Board,
is hereby giving notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board will be held on
Wednesday, April 2, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room in
Garapan, Saipan. The Public is welcome to submit written or oral comments
regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meet-
ing and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC
in advance.

I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call

II. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

III. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

V. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**
A. 2005 project funding
B. Project updates

VI. **HOUSING PROGRAMS**
A. Section 8 Updates

VII. **MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAMS**
A. Loans for Concurrence
B. VA Loan Matters
C. SB 16-25

VIII. **FIELD OFFICE REPORTS**

IX. **FISCAL MATTERS**
A. Financial Statements
B. SK II properties
C. Lot 003 D 10
D. FY 2006 and 2007 audit updates

X. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

XI. **OTHER MATTERS**
A. Lot 003 D 16
B. CPD citizen participation plan
C. Turnkey development proposal

XII. **ADJOURNMENT**

NOTE: Pursuant to PL 8-41, Section 13(6) and (7), some discussion of the
above may be under Executive Session.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Chairman of the Board



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB No.: ITB08-WIA-049**

OPENING DATE: APRIL 03, 2008 TIME: 11:00 A.M.


**“OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE WORKFORCE
INVESTMENT AGENCY-ROTA BRANCH”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR.,
SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FAX REQUEST TO (670)
664-1515.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS
PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118
AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ EDITH E. DELEON GUERRERO /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
WIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DIRECTOR, P&S

PUBLIC NOTICE



This is to inform the general public that
Darlene Aldan is no longer employed by
Choice Radio Inc. dba IConnect and no
longer has any affiliation to this company.
Any transaction made by her on behalf of
this company will not be honored.

**The Management
Choice Radio Inc. dba IConnect**

*Subscribe to CNMI's First
Daily Newspaper*

235-NEWS



WHATZIT?TM

Find the familiar phrase, saying or
name in this arrangement of letters.

history
”

Find today's solution in this section

Make it a **daily** habit!

Log on to www.saipantribune.com

© 2008 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Hansbrough, Tar Heels reach Final Four



CHARLOTTE, N.C.

(AP)—Tyler Hansbrough always found a way for North Carolina, whether it was carrying the Tar Heels when they lost their point guard or making a shot despite every defender knowing the ball would end up in his hands. Now, with his relentless drive and unyielding will, Hansbrough has the Tar Heels back in the Final Four.

Hansbrough had 28 points and 13 rebounds Saturday night to help the Tar Heels hold off Louisville 83-73 in the East Regional final. Playing in front of a partisan home-state crowd, they reached the national semifinals for the first time since winning the championship in 2005.

The Tar Heels (36-2) advanced to play the Kansas-Davidson winner next Saturday at San Antonio, setting up a potential matchup between Hall of Fame coach Roy Williams and the Jayhawks program he left behind when he returned to his alma mater in 2003.

On this night, however, the focus was squarely on the Atlantic Coast Conference's player of the year.

Battling in a physical contest inside, Hansbrough finished 12-for-17 from the floor in 38 minutes and was named regional MVP. That included a pair of clutch jumpers over the outstretched arms of 6-11 center David Padgett as the Tar Heels desperately tried to hold their tenuous second-half lead in the final minutes.

"He does the same thing in practice every day," Williams said. "He is the most driven, focused player I've ever seen in my life. He wants to be the best player he can be and win."

"That's Tyler Hansbrough. That's Tyler Hansbrough at practice every day. That's Tyler Hansbrough on off days. That's who Tyler Hansbrough is."

For Hansbrough and his teammates, it was a reversal from last year's second-half collapse against Georgetown in the NCAA tournament's round of eight. This time, the tournament's No. 1 overall seed got to cut down the nets instead of heading to the locker room to wait for next year.

The Tar Heels have won all four of their games in this tournament by double digits. All four victories came in their home state, too, allowing them to celebrate in front of plenty of blue-clad fans Saturday.

"My feelings right now are great," Hansbrough said. "This just kind of takes all those bad experiences away. At the same time, we want to accomplish more."

Ty Lawson added 11 points—including a key 3-pointer with about 5 minutes left—for North Carolina, which blew a 12-point halftime lead, then broke away from a tie at 59 to earn their 17th trip to the Final Four.

Last year, nobody could hit a shot when the Tar Heels needed one most against the Hoyas in a loss that had stayed with them all season. But this time, the Tar Heels played with steady poise when the third-seeded Cardinals (27-9) erased the margin and traded baskets with them in the anxious final minutes.

First, with the Tar Heels clinging to a 68-64 lead, Lawson came around the baseline and knocked down a 3 from the corner in front of his bench that pushed the margin to seven. Then, after



North Carolina's Tyler Hansbrough, right, dunks over Louisville's Juan Palacios during the second half of the NCAA East Regional final basketball game Saturday, March 29, 2008, in Charlotte, N.C. AP

a basket from Earl Clark inside, Hansbrough knocked down a straightaway jumper over the 6-foot-11 Padgett to make it 73-66 with 2:27 to play.

Hansbrough essentially closed the door on Louisville on the next possession. The 6-9 junior got the ball on the left wing with the shot clock winding down, then pump-faked to get Clark up in the air and step in for another jumper over Padgett. The ball swished cleanly through while Hansbrough was knocked to the ground, pushing the lead to 75-66 with 1:33 left.

"I've been playing with him my whole college career," said junior Danny Green, who had 11 points despite needing four stitches to close a cut above his left eye late in the first half. "A lot of shots that he takes and makes, it still shocks me to this day. I'm like, 'How did he get that off and how did he make it?' He's been doing it his whole career."

The baskets left Louisville's players in similar disbelief.

"You see the guy as a junior and he's getting his jersey retired and you're like, 'Why?'" said Terrence Williams, who had 14 points for Louisville. "Then you play against him and you say, 'That's why.' He'll go through the floor just to get a rebound. He's a great player."

The Tar Heels went 8-for-8 at the foul line to seal it in the final minute. That steady hand was quite a change last year's loss to the Hoyas, in which they missed 22 of 23 shots and let an 11-point lead slip away in the 96-84 overtime loss.

Jerry Smith scored 17 points to lead Louisville, which shot 53 percent and gave the Tar Heels all they could handle after halftime.

"We played exactly the style of play we needed to win," Louisville coach Rick Pitino said. "(It's) very difficult sometimes for people to admit when the other team is better. But we're a very good basketball team this year, very good, and they were better tonight."

Lawson—back at full speed after spraining his left ankle in February—had nine assists while operating as a one-man press break against the Cardinals' full-court defense all night.

The Tar Heels shot 53 percent to become the first team to shoot better than 50 percent against the Cardinals. The win allowed Williams to move past Pitino and Bob Knight and into a tie with Kentucky's Adolph Rupp and Louisville's Denny Crum with six Final Four appearances, which is fourth most all-time.

The game came hours after the Louisville and North Carolina women's teams played in the NCAA round of 16 in New Orleans. In that game, the top-seeded Tar Heels rallied from an 18-point deficit to beat the fourth-seeded Cardinals 78-74.

UCLA 76, Xavier 67

At Phoenix, After reaching the Final Four for the third straight time, UCLA coach Ben Howland called these Bruins "by far the best" of the three.

The other two didn't have freshman Kevin Love, who had 19 points and 10 rebounds as the top-seeded Bruins blitzed Xavier 76-57 Saturday to earn their record 18th overall trip to the Final Four.

Love was picked as the most outstanding player of the West Regional. "Obviously, it's unbelievable,"

Howland said after taking the last few snips of the net. "That's really a credit to how good the players are and how well we performed under pressure the last three years."

It's the Bruins' longest string of Final Four appearances since they closed the John Wooden era with nine straight trips and added a 10th consecutive trip in 1976 under his successor, Gene Bartow.

The Bruins' 1980 Final Four was later vacated by the NCAA because of rules violations.

At times on Saturday, Howland's Bruins looked every bit as dominant as Wooden's finer squads, annihilating a proud Xavier team that had set a school record for victories.

The Bruins (35-3) lost in the Final Four the last two years. But they go to San Antonio with Love, who has given them a formidable inside presence and has raised his game in this tournament.

UCLA plays the Memphis-Texas winner in the national semifinal in San Antonio on April 5.

"We're getting spoiled with Kevin," Howland said.

Love made 7-of-11 shots from the floor, including 2-of-4 from beyond the arc. Half of his rebounds came at the offensive end and he added four assists for good measure.

"He looks like he's 25 years old when he's playing," Xavier coach Sean Miller said of Love, who is 19.

The Musketeers (30-7) had no answer for Love on a day they shot 36.2 percent from the floor—a credit to UCLA's relentless man-to-man defense.

"We can play better than we did today," Miller said. "I couldn't be

more proud and really at ease right now because I really felt we went about as far as we could and lost to a great team. They're unique. I'm really pulling for them. I hope we lost to the national champion."

The knock on UCLA is that it often coasts with a big lead. Not this time.

Leading by nine at halftime, the Bruins snuffed out third-seeded Xavier's comeback hopes with a 14-0 run early in the second half.

"It all started with defense," Love said. "That's what really won the game for us."

The rest of the game was one long advertisement for the powder blue and gold, with a partisan crowd rocking U.S. Airways Center with chants of "U-C-L-A!"

After the game, the same fans serenaded Love with chants of "one more year!" as he gave an interview along press row.

This wasn't the time for Love, projected as a high NBA pick, to address his future.

"It feels great but we've got business to take care of next week and I'm not even thinking about the next level right now," Love said. "I'm living in the now, living in the present."

The now is pretty cool if you're a Bruin.

UCLA had flirted with trouble in the previous two rounds, surviving upset bids by ninth-seeded Texas A&M and No. 12-seeded Western Kentucky. After the too-tight victory over the Hilltoppers, Love called the Bruins' play "unacceptable."

But against Xavier they reverted to the form that made them a No. 1 seed.

Luc Richard Mbah a Moute had 13 points and 13 rebounds and Darren Collison added 19 points for UCLA, which shot 53.8 percent from the floor and won its 14th straight.

Derrick Brown had 13 points for Xavier.

This matched Xavier's deepest foray into the NCAA brackets. The Musketeers had reached the regional final once before, in 2004.

Early on, Xavier looked as if it might be able to hang with UCLA. After turning the ball over a season-high 19 times in the third round, the Bruins had 10 turnovers in the first half on Saturday.

But the Musketeers only scored two points off those turnovers—and it cost them when UCLA finally settled down.

Leading 24-20, the Bruins closed the first half on a 9-4 run. The leader of the charge was Mbah a Moute, who has been slowed by a sprained ankle.

Mbah a Moute scored five straight points, all of them as a result of some gritty work on the offensive boards.

"All I can tell you is I didn't have any pain," Mbah a Moute said.

Then Collison dribbled down the clock and hit a jumper over Stanley Burrell, the Atlantic 10's Defensive Player of the Year, to send the Bruins into the dressing room with a 33-24 lead.

The biggest bucket may have come when Love pulled down an offensive rebound on a missed free throw, then fired the ball to Collison loitering beyond the arc. Collison hit the 3-pointer and UCLA led 43-28.

A few minutes later, Love buried a 3-pointer and the Bruins led by 20.

Pistons roll, Cavs still clinch playoffs



AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—Richard Hamilton returned to the lineup and scored 14 points, leading the Detroit Pistons to an 85-71 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Saturday night.

The Cavs did, however, clinch a spot in the playoffs because the New Jersey Nets lost to the Phoenix Suns.

LeBron James had a lackluster night with 13 points on 4-of-17 shooting with five assists and five turnovers. James, though, didn't get much help from his teammates.

Ben Wallace, in his first game at The Palace since joining the Cavs, was back on the court after missing two-plus games with back spasms. But he didn't last long, needing help to go to the locker room after his back injury flared up.

Chauncey Billups and reserve Jason Maxiell each scored 13 while Tayshaun Prince and Antonio McDyess had 12 points apiece for the Pistons, who have won three of four. Hamilton had missed three games with a sore hip.

After missing his first eight shots, Cleveland's Zydrunas Ilgauskas finished with 11 points. Reserve Devin Brown scored 11 points and Joe Smith, who was acquired last month from

Chicago along with Wallace, had 10 points off the bench.

Daniel Gibson was healthy enough to play for the Cavs since Feb. 20, when he sprained his left ankle. He scored only a point in 18 minutes.

The Cavs chose to rest guard Delonte West, who has been slowed by ankle tendinitis.

Detroit took control in the opening minutes—going ahead 6-0 while Cleveland missed its first four shots—and the Cavs didn't seem to put up much of a fight to rally back. The Pistons led 29-18 after the first quarter, 49-33 at halftime and 72-50 after the third.

Suns 110, Nets 104

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Phoenix beat New Jersey to move into a tie with the Los Angeles Lakers atop the Pacific Division.

Amare Stoudemire had 33 points and 15 rebounds to lead the Suns.

The Nets fell two games behind Atlanta in the race for the final playoff berth in the Eastern Conference. New Jersey has eight games left, two less than the Hawks.

Bulls 114, Bucks 111

In Chicago, the home side held on to beat Milwaukee after nearly squandering a 21-point fourth-quarter lead.



AP
Detroit Pistons guard Richard Hamilton, front, drives against Cleveland Cavaliers forward Wally Szczerbiak in the first half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, March 29, 2008, in Auburn Hills, Mich.

Rookie Joakim Noah scored a season-high 18 points and had 15 rebounds for the Bulls, who pulled within 3 -1/2 games of Atlanta for the final playoff spot in the East.

The Bucks lost for the 12th time in 14 games in March.

Nuggets 119, Warriors 112

In Denver, the home side surged past Golden State in the wild Western Conference playoff race.

Kenyon Martin scored a season-high 30 points as the Nuggets staged off a furious rally by the Warriors in the closing minutes.

The Nuggets moved half a game ahead of the Warriors for the eighth and final West playoff spot and pulled within half a game of sliding Dallas for seventh. The Mavericks visit the Warriors on Sunday.

Bobcats 93, Trail Blazers 85

In Portland, Oregon, Emeka Okafor scored 21 points as Charlotte broke open a back-and-forth game in the final two minutes and beat Portland.

Jason Richardson added 20 points for the Bobcats.

Clippers 110, Grizzlies 97

In Los Angeles, the home team

snapped a season-worst 10-game losing streak by beating Memphis.

Rookie Al Thornton scored 20 of his career-high 39 points in the fourth quarter for the Clippers, who won for only the third time in 19 games.

4 lead at rain-halted Zurich Classic



AVON-DALE, La. (AP)—Woody Austin, Nicholas Thompson, Peter Lonard and Briny Baird topped the Zurich Classic leaderboard at 8 under Saturday when rain, lightning and thunder forced the suspension of third-round play.

Play was stopped at 1:48 p.m., then called off for the day at 5:35 p.m. The 46 players unable to finish will try to complete the round Sunday morning.

"We think we can get it all in, but everyone will have to keep moving," PGA Tour media official Joan Alexander said.

Austin had seven holes to play, Thompson eight, Lonard 14 and Baird 15.

John Senden was the leader in the clubhouse at 7 under after a 66.

"I think the golf course has gotten progressively easier as the week has gone on because when we practiced on Tuesday it was really dry and bouncy," Senden said.

Andres Romero, Tim Petrovic, Steve Elkington and John Merrick also were 7 under.

"We're going to keep the same tee times tomorrow," said Tim Petrovic, who was 5 under for the round with three holes to play. "There are some guys who are going to get a little bit of an advantage from it, but hopefully it won't be a situation where there's too much advantage."

Austin was bothered by the delay.

"I didn't get off to a great start, but made a couple of birdies to offset a kind of shaky start," Austin said. "Unfortunately for me, I had momentum on my side. I just birdied nine, 10, and 11 and now I've been stuck for the last four hours."

Eighty-one players made the cut at even-par 144 on Friday. Under the tour's revised cut policy, the field would have been cut to the low 70 players and ties after the third round. But because of the rain delay, everyone will be able to play on Sunday.

"That's correct," tournament director Arvin Ginn said. "They're now entitled to play, and we had a couple of players that were already hom

115,300 watch Red Sox beat Dodgers



LOS ANGELES (AP)—

The Dodgers used a five-man infield against the Boston Red Sox. Too bad they weren't allowed to put a player or two in the Los Angeles Coliseum stands.

Kevin Cash and Kevin Youkilis hit cheap homers off Esteban Loaiza to account for five runs in the first three innings, and the Red Sox beat the Dodgers 7-4 Saturday night before an announced crowd of 115,300 - largest ever to watch a baseball game.

The previous record of about 114,000 attended an exhibition between the Australian national team and an American services team during the 1956 Melbourne Olympics.

This exhibition game was part of the Dodgers' 50th anniversary celebration of their move west from Brooklyn in 1958. They played at the Coliseum for four years before making Dodger Stadium their permanent home in 1962.

In the last baseball game played at the Coliseum, on Sept. 20, 1961, Sandy Koufax pitched all 13 innings in a 3-2 victory over the Chicago Cubs before a crowd of 12,068.

The Coliseum was built for track and football, not baseball.

Routine fly balls, even pop-ups, soared over a 42-foot high

screen in left field, where the distance from home plate to the foul pole was just 251 feet. Meanwhile, drives to right and center of more than 400 feet were easy outs.

The distance to the left-field foul pole for this game was 201 feet and the screen was 60 feet high. And the fences around the rest of the field were far closer to home plate than in the old days.

Cash lined a two-out, three-run homer to left-center in the second—a ball that might have split the gap elsewhere but certainly wouldn't have gone out. Youkilis connected with two outs in the third, popping the ball over the screen with a runner aboard.

"It was pretty cool," Cash said. "I would have rather it had been a regular-season game."

Regarding his homer, Cash smiled and said: "I thought I hit it good. You put it at Yankee Stadium, it's probably not a home run. It was a home run here."

Surprisingly, there were only two more homers, a solo shot by Dodgers' first baseman James Loney in the seventh off Bryan Corey, and a two-run blast by rookie Blake DeWitt off Jonathan Papelbon in the ninth.

"I thought it was a heck of a show," Dodgers manager Joe Torre said. "I didn't see any empty seats. That's pretty im-

posing. Everybody seemed to have a good time."

While Loaiza struggled, Boston knuckleballer Tim Wakefield excelled, allowing five hits and an unearned run in five innings to make a mockery of catcher Jason Varitek's pre-game forecast of doom.

"Wakie's a fly ball pitcher. That's great," Varitek said some 3 1/2 hours before the game as he walked down the Coliseum tunnel and glanced toward the left-field screen.

Then, in his best broadcast voice, Varitek he intoned: "Dodgers 85, Red Sox 81."

He was way off. "It wasn't one of those 21-20 games a lot of people anticipated," Torre said.

Torre joked beforehand about using a five-man infield, but the Dodgers did so throughout the game. Center fielder Andruw Jones played behind second base on the skin of the infield at the start, with left fielder Andre Ethier in center, leaving left field unprotected.

When Jacoby Ellsbury was thrown out trying to steal in the fourth, Jones was on the receiving end of catcher Russell Martin's throw - the unconventional putout from catcher to center fielder.

The Red Sox went with a more conventional defensive approach, although their left fielders were stationed in left-

center, well off the line.

Longtime announcer Vin Scully, who moved with the Dodgers from Brooklyn to Los Angeles, was honored before the game. He referred to himself as "an ordinary man who was given an extraordinary opportunity."

After being given a long ovation, Scully told the fans: "Aw c'mon. It's only me."

Wally Moon, a left-handed hitter who earned lasting fame for his ability to slice the ball off or over the left field screen, known as Moonshots, threw out the ceremonial first pitch.

Before the second inning, former Lakers star Kareem Abdul-Jabbar threw another ceremonial pitch, flanked by 15 members of the 1958 Dodgers.

Pregame talk, naturally, centered on the configuration of the field.

Former Dodgers pitching ace Don Newcombe had a difficult time looking at the screen, which clearly brought up some unpleasant memories.

"That's terrible, isn't it? I know the hitters are foaming at the mouth," Newcombe said, his voice rising. "It's a monstrosity, that's not a baseball thing. It was a monstrosity then. We knew that."

Boston manager Terry Francona said he was just happy he wasn't pitching - or hitting.

"Sadly, my little flares would

Inter, Onwel score easy wins in men's football

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Powerhouse teams and rivals Inter and Onwel celebrated Easter last week with easy wins over separate opponents in the 2008 Men's Winter Football League at the Oleai Field inside the Susupe

Sports Complex. Inter scored a 4-0 shutout win over Wild Bill's Independents, while Onwel tripped Ol'Aces, 6-1. Arkie Reusora had two goals in Inter's win to help his team improve its record to a 6-1 slate to top the six-team field. The loss dropped Independents from second to fourth place with an even 4-4 mark. Reusora scored in the 64th minute breaking Inter's scoring

drought since Eigo Kamatsu found the back of the goal in the 11th minute of the first half. Chris Nelson secured the win for Inter when he scored in the 79th, while Reusora added one more goal in the 88th minute to complete the shutout. Bunsong Srisomkhieo scored in the 76th and 80th minutes to lead Onwel's 6-1 win over Ol'Aces. Wirat Chuaykrathok (15th

minute), Apisit Khenarun (36th minute), and Prem Thephaso (54th minute) scored the other goals for Onwel. Sylvan Rangamar Jr. scored the lone goal for Ol'Aces when he booted one in the 89th minute. Melvin Yamit and Rex Tasi also received separate yellow cards with the latter being ejected in the game. In the other game, FC Arirang

escaped with a come-from-behind 4-3 decision against Multinational FC. FC Arirang trailed for most of the first half but scored the needed goals before halftime to swing the momentum back into their favor. Multinational FC's Hyun Lee and TJ Gurung gave their team a 2-0 lead when they scored in the seventh and 24th minute. FC Arirang rallied back in the

game when Sung In Kim scored their first goal in the 28th minute while Yoon Won Choi tied the game four minutes after in the 32nd minute. Chong Koo Gil opened the second half with a goal in the 46th minute, while Arirang added an own goal in the 90th to secure the win. Multinationals' Sewoon Park scored after four minutes of stoppage time to end up the scoring. Leocardio Mendiola of Multinational was given a yellow card in the game.

HEO

From Page 28

Amy Arenovski, 7-6, 6-3, and Jeane Bracken, 6-1, 6-1, to earn a finals berth. Minor, who drew

GIANTS

From Page 28

Sablan added 21 markers. In the second game, Ol'Aces sent a message that they are a force to reckon with as they cruised to a 117-91 triumph over SMF-Seabridge. CNMI Junior National team member Jericho Cruz led Ol'Aces' scoring splurge draining 18 first half points to help his team pull away and enjoy a 56-38 halftime spread. Fred Pelisamen finished what Cruz has started, scoring 12 points in the final 20 minutes of the match. Cruz top-scored for Ol'Aces with 30 followed closely by Pelisamen's

a bye in the first round, defeated Ilia Corella, 6-0, 6-1. Matty Buenaventura won the women's 4.0 title after a 6-2, 6-1 victory against Lydia Tan. Buenaventura downed Kisses Aquino, 6-0, 6-2, while Tan defeated 29 markers. The come-backing Jack Lizama, who had a long hiatus in the local basketball scene, scattered 20 points with eight coming in the third period where Ol'Aces kept SMF-Seabridge at bay. Pedro Iguel netted 14 points, while Luis Iguel tallied 11 markers to round up Ol'Aces' scorers that finished in double-digits. Leo Itaas had 18 points and Gary Cayetano added 15 for SMF-Seabridge, while Sonny Lerio and James Villacrusis chipped in 14 each. **First Game** **TASI Tours Giants 92** – Biera 24, Peredo 24, De Guzman 17, Muleta 11, Rañola 5, Talanía 5, aquino 4, Factor 2.

Ellen Uy, 6-0, 6-2 to arrange a finals showdown. Championship matches in the boys' and girls' 9-and-under, boys' 13-and-under, men's 3.0 and 4.0, and women's open were still being played at press time. **Price Costco 72** – Vinas 23, D. Sablan 21, Lauron 9, Johnson 7, De Vero 6, Alfonso 2, Irinaka 2, Loste 2. **Scoring by quarters:** 22-17, 41-35, 55-54, 92-72. **Referees:** Arnold Mesa and Jess Pabula. **Second Game** **Ol'Aces 117** – Cruz 30, F. Pelisamen 29, Lizama 20, P. Iguel 14, L. Iguel 11, Rangamar 7, R. Pelisamen 2. **SMF-Seabridge 91** – Itaas 18, Cayetano 15, Lerio 14, Villacrusis 14, Bernardo 12, Capalad 7, Demigilio 6, Galvez 4. **Scoring by quarters:** 25-22, 56-38, 80-66, 117-91. Referees: Gilbert Espinosa and Jess Pabula.

SURVIVORS

From Page 28

Patriots, and the vastly improved Bank of Saipan Red Sox with similar 5-1 slates. The Survivors scored three runs each in the first to third innings as enough cushion and even enjoyed an 11-3 lead after four complete innings before Ol'Aces threaten in the bottom of the fifth with five runs. Poland Masaharu pitched 3.1 innings allowing two earned runs on two hits—including

an inside-the-park home run to Justin Lizama in the third—while striking out five batters and walking two. Jayvan Rechur pitched 2.3 innings in relief giving up four earned runs on five hits—including a three-run inside-the-park home run to Joseph Angui in the fifth inning—with four strikeouts and one walk. Lizama nearly led the Ol'Aces' comeback when he went 2-for-4 with a run, a triple, and a two-RBI inside-the-park homer. On Saturday, the UMDA Hustlers I needed 10 innings to

squeeze out a 9-8 win over the Red Sox to snap the Bank of Saipan supported team's five-game winning run. With one out in the bottom of the 10th, Jesus Celes, who walked, scored the game-winning run on a Miko Gabianza single. In other Major division matches, the Patriots scored their second straight win with a 10-0 shutout victory over the PTI Dolphins, while the Kagman Little Lions of Reps. Ed Salas and Rosmond Santos and Cil Ada eclipsed the Shell Marianas Suns, 12-8.

MATTA

From Page 28

able to find out that Hamamoto is interested in bringing in table tennis players from Japan to the CNMI in the near future. Gumataotao, who helped his team win the silver medal in the 7th Palau South Pacific Mini Games in Koror in 2005, Ho and Hanamoto battled two three-man teams from host Tinian and the visiting Saipan squad over the weekend. Results, however, were still not available as of press time. Tinian's Mark Ma, Charlie Cheng, and Luke Lu, meanwhile, were expected to lead Tinian A, while Tinian B was composed of Robin Lu, Liang Wei Bin with the third player a toss up between Bright Liu and Alfred Yu.

Micro Games women's singles gold medalist Jean Shi, team gold medal winners Su Yong Dong and Budhi Gurung were the members of Saipan Team A, while Peter De Leon, Con Pobre, and MATTA president Lim comprised Saipan B. In October last year, Saipan scored a 21-15 win over Tinian in the 2007 Saipan vs. Tinian Goodwill Games at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. After taking a 9-8 lead following the first 17 games of the one-day tournament, ping-pong players from Saipan got rolling in the afternoon matches, taking 12 of the final 19 matches to win the biannual Goodwill Games between the two islands, 21-15. Leading the charge for MATTA was Su's undefeated 6-0 record with Gurung's 5-1 mark and the 4-2 record of Shi back-

ing him up. Gurung's only loss came against Ma, while Shi had her setbacks exacted by the Lu brothers. Tinian's top triumvirate of Ma and Lu brothers all finished with identical 4-2 records, while their supporting cast of Liu, Zhang, and Qu were a combined 3-15 in the win-loss column. In April last year, Tinian made sure the perpetual cup remained on Tinian as the powerhouse TDHC table tennis club dominated the MATTA delegation in the first leg of the 2007 Saipan vs. Tinian Goodwill Games. Tinian's top pen-holders beat Saipan's best paddlers, 28-21, in a showdown between teams made up of six veterans of 2006's gold-medal winning CNMI Men's National Table Tennis Team at the TDHC ballroom.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS														
EASTERN CONFERENCE														
Atlantic Division														
	W	L	Pct	GB										
y-Boston	57	15	.792	—	Mathew Goggin	73-70-71	214	5. Tim Petrovic	-7	15	-5			
Toronto	37	35	.514	20	Paul Goydos	74-70-71	215	5. John Senden	-7	F	-6			
Philadelphia	37	36	.507	20 1/2	Tom Pernice, Jr.	73-71-71	215	10. Tim Wilkinson	-6	8	-1			
New Jersey	31	43	.419	27	Robert Karlsson	70-73-72	215	10. Parker McLachlin	-6	7	-1			
New York	20	52	.278	37	Frank Lickliter II	72-71-72	215	10. Chez Reavie	-6	7	-1			
Southeast Division														
x-Orlando	47	27	.635	—	Brett Rumford	72-72-72	216	10. Marco Dawson	-6	6	-1			
Washington	38	34	.528	8	Scott Sterling	71-73-72	216	10. Rocco Mediate	-6	10	-2			
Atlanta	32	40	.444	14	Mathias Gronberg	75-69-72	216	10. Roland Thatcher	-6	10	-2			
Charlotte	28	45	.384	18 1/2	Chip Sullivan	76-68-72	216	10. Nathan Green	-6	10	-2			
Miami	13	59	.181	33	Jin Park	70-74-72	216	10. Dudley Hart	-6	15	-4			
Central Division														
y-Detroit	52	21	.712	—	Stewart Cink	73-71-72	216	10. Jonathan Byrd	-6	F	-5			
x-Cleveland	40	33	.548	12	George McNeill	71-73-72	216	10. Daniel Chopra	-6	F	-6			
Indiana	30	43	.411	22	Chris Stroud	72-71-73	216	10. Jay Williamson	-6	4	+1			
Chicago	29	44	.397	23	Matt Jones	74-68-74	216	10. Shigeki Maruyama	-6	5	E			
Milwaukee	24	48	.333	27 1/2	Rich Beem	73-71-73	217							
WESTERN CONFERENCE														
Southwest Division														
New Orleans	49	22	.690	—	Zach Johnson	72-71-74	217	BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS						
San Antonio	50	23	.685	—	Retief Goosen	73-71-74	218							
Houston	49	23	.681	1/2	Bubba Dickerson	70-73-75	218							
Dallas	45	27	.625	4 1/2	Robert Gamez	70-74-75	219							
Memphis	19	54	.260	31	Alex Cejka	72-72-75	219							
Northwest Division														
Utah	48	25	.658	—	Jonathan Kaye	74-70-75	219							
Denver	45	28	.616	3	Johnson Wagner	71-72-76	219							
Portland	38	36	.514	10 1/2	Brandt Jobe	70-74-76	220							
Minnesota	18	53	.254	29	Did Not Finish									
Seattle	17	56	.233	31						Woody Austin	69-71	140		
										Nicholas Thompson	69-71	140		
Pacific Division														
L.A. Lakers	49	24	.671	—	Briny Baird	67-69	136	LOCAL SCORES						
Phoenix	49	24	.671	—	Peter Lonard	67-70	137							
Golden State	44	28	.611	4 1/2	Andres Romero	73-69	142							
Sacramento	32	40	.444	16 1/2	Tim Petrovic	74-68	142							
L.A. Clippers	22	51	.301	27	Steve Elkington	68-71	139							
x-clinched playoff spot y-clinched division					John Merrick	72-67	139	Little League Standings						
					Dudley Hart	73-69	142	Major						
					Roland Thatcher	70-70	140	Patriots 5 1						
					Rocco Mediate	70-70	140	Red Sox 5 1						
					Nathan Green	71-69	140	Survivors 5 1						
					Tim Wilkinson	71-68	139	Ol'Aces 5 1						
					Parker McLachlin	72-67	139	Dragons 4 1						
					Chez Reavie	67-72	139	Hustlers I 3 1						
					Marco Dawson	71-68	139	Dolphins 4 2						
					Shigeki Maruyama	70-68	138	Braves 3 2						
					Jay Williamson	68-69	137	Twins 3 2						
					Kenny Perry	71-71	142	Athletics 1 4						
					J.J. Henry	74-68	142	Hustlers II 1 4						
					Carl Pettersson	71-70	141	McDonald's 1 5						
					Jon Mills	71-70	141	Dare JPO's 1 3						
					Todd Hamilton	70-70	140	Lions 0 4						
					Brian Davis	71-68	139	Pirates 0 4						
					Tommy Armour III	70-68	138	Suns 0 5						
					Patrick Sheehan	69-73	142	Junior League						
					Pat Perez	71-70	141							
					Ted Purdy	70-71	141							
					Padraig Harrington	71-70	141	Senior League						
					Jeff Maggert	70-70	140							
					Tim Clark	73-66	139							
					Cameron Beckman	68-71	139	Big League						
					Mark Hensby	74-68	142							
					Harrison Frazar	69-73	142							
					Steve Flesch	69-72	141	NMIFA Men's Standings						
					Dean Wilson	66-73	139							
					Nick Watney	71-67	138							
					Jason Bohn	74-68	142	W L D GF GA Pts GD						
					John Mallingier	69-73	142							
					Justin Bolli	74-68	142							
					Carlos Franco	71-70	141	Inter 6 1 1 27 12 19 15						
					Mark Calcavecchia	71-71	142	FC Arirang 6 2 1 24 19 19 5						
					Troy Matteson	69-73	142	Onwel 4 3 2 17 19 14 -2						
					Joe Durant	69-71	140	Independents 4 4 1 16 19 13 -3						
					James Driscoll	75-67	142	Multinational FC 3 5 1 20 35 10 -15						
					Bubba Watson	73-69	142	Ol'Aces 0 8 0 4 69 0 -65						
					GF - Goals for									
					GA - Goals against									
					Pts - Points									
					GD - Goal differential									
					FMI Standings									
					Advance X-Terminators 1 0									
					Ol'Aces 1 0									
					Shirley's Coffee Shop 1 0									
					TASI Tours Giants 1 1									
					Price Costco 0 1									
					SMF-Seabridge 0 2									
AVONDALE, Louisiana (AP)—Third-round scores Saturday from the Zurich Classic, a \$6.2 million (4 million euro) U.S. PGA Tour event at the 7,341-yard, par-72 TPC Louisiana (play suspended due to weather with 46 players still on the course. Round will be completed Sunday morning):														
John Senden	74-69-66	209												
Daniel Chopra	71-73-66	210												
Jonathan Byrd	72-71-67	210												
Jose Coceres	75-68-68	211												
Craig Barlow	72-71-68	211												
Bob Estes	72-72-68	212												
Charles Warren	70-74-68	212												
WC Liang	71-72-69	212												
Brian Bateman	73-70-69	212												
Kevin Sutherland	71-71-70	212												
Cliff Kresge	75-68-70	213												
Jeff Quinney	71-73-70	214												
Leaderboard														
Player	SCORE	THRU	TODAY											
1. Peter Lonard	-8	4	-1											
1. Woody Austin	-8	11	-4											
1. Nicholas Thompson	-8	10	-4											
1. Briny Baird	-8	3	E											
5. Steve Elkington	-7	8	-2											
5. John Merrick	-7	7	-2											
5. Andres Romero	-7	16	-5											

Six crowned champs in youth volleyball

Photos and Text by JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Six teams were crowned champions in different age groups in the boys and girls division of the Inaugural 2008 Spring Break Youth Volleyball Festival in Friday's finals played at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Brotherhood and Powerpuffs topped the 18-and-under division, while Umangs won the boys' Under-12 and -14 age groups with Bwii Bwiis and Hilitai duplicated the feat in the girls' side.

Brotherhood needed three sets to beat Okies, 25-22, 12-25, 15-11, to win the boys' 18-and-under title. The win also avenged Brotherhood's elimination round loss to Okies, 24-26, 17-25.

Brotherhood finished third in the four-day tournament, while the Okies topped the single round-robin eliminations. The Okies beat Ayuyus in the semifinals while Brotherhood ousted the Kings.

The Brotherhood's Jesus Iguel game-long brilliance and leadership earned him the most valuable player award.

In the girls' Under-18 class, Powerpuffs completed its one-loss season with an easy 25-15, 25-8 win over Kagman High School.

All-around athlete Lia Rangamar, who is a multi-medaled trackster and an prolific shooter in basketball, led Powerpuffs' title win and was named MVP.

The Umangs, which is made up of Koblerville Elementary School students, of coach Francis Mendiola went 2-for-2 in the boys division winning the Under-14 and -12 titles.

Umangs, which were the top seeds in the four-day tournament entering the finals, scored a hard-earned 21-25, 26-24, 15-12 win over Spicy Tuna thanks to the efforts of Lamar Iguel and Richard Philip, who were named co-MVPs in the Under-14 division.

Mendiola also used the core of his Under-14 team in the 12-and-under division with Raymund Saralu leading the Umangs in winning against Tokka in the finals.

MVP Love Meeneiser led Hilitai's 25-21, 25-13 win over UR Mom in the girls' 14-and-under class, while Marty Ann Mendiola earned the MVP honors after helping Bwii Bwiis beat Mini Marshmallows in the Under-12 division.

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association organized the tournament in cooperation with the Division of Youth Services and Division of Sports and Recreation.



Left, participants of the 2008 Spring Break Volleyball Festival join organizers and officials for a group photo.

Bottom left, Umangs most valuable players, from left, Lamar Iguel (14-and-under), Raymund Saralu (12-and-under), and Richard Philip (14-and-under), pose with the championship trophies during Friday's award ceremony of the 2008 Spring Break Volleyball Festival.

Bottom, the Umangs' 12- and 14-and-under teams pose together for a group photo.



Boys' 18-and-under champions Brotherhood celebrate their win.



Hilitai coach Felissa Brel, center, joins her team and Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, third left, Division of Youth Services director Deborah Inos, fourth left, and tournament coordinator Elias Rangamar, right, for a group photo.



Hilitai's Love Meeneiser, right, poses with Division of Youth Services director Deborah Inos after receiving her MVP certificate.



Powerpuffs coaches Ronald Olopai, left, and Luis Iguel, right, join their team for a group photo after beating Kagman High School in the girls' 18-and-under division.



Kagman High School coach Emi Quitugua, second right, celebrate their second place finish in the girls' 18-and-under division.

